LEARNING / F4
Gilda Cordero-Fernando's The Magic Circle Chapter 2

BUSINESS / B2-1
Personal finance A job crisis survival guide

NEWS / A2
P330-B stimulus fund, but who's got the money?

SPORTS / A24
Texters avoid deeper hole, take Game 3

WORLD / A28
2 Koreas on path to war, says Pyongyang

Worried about future? Survivalists await worse

NEW YORK—SICK OF worrying about the future? Then spare a thought for Jim Rawles.

Rawles, 48, is one of a growing number of "survivalists"—Amer-

WORRIED A23

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, February 2, 2009 • 9 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 56 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Ex-UN chief says crisis may breed more graft

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND—HERE'S YET another danger from the global economic crisis. It could breed more corruption, as recession-starved officials increasingly demand bribes and hungry companies compete for shrinking resources.

Yet few words were dedicated to fighting graft at the World Economic Forum of business and political decision-makers

EX-UN CHIEF A3

Show 3 cops alive, military tells NPA

Rebels say gov't won't negotiate

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE MILITARY YESTERDAY demanded that guerrillas of the communist New People's Army show proof that the three police officers held captive in Rizal since last month are alive.

A photograph or a phone call to prove that Insp. Ben Cesmpuy and PO1 Alberto Umali and PO1 Marvin Aguero are out of harm's way would do, Philippine Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr. said in a phone interview with the Inquirer.

"But the NPA has not shown any proof since the three were held captive," Brawner said.

Communist rebels yesterday said the government had rejected offers to negotiate for the release of the three police officers captured early last month after a gun battle in Rodriguez town in which one officer was killed and two others injured.

Brawner stressed that the military was standing pat on its resolve not to negotiate with criminals and extremist rebels. "Negotiations are an undertaking of the government, not of the military," he said.

In a statement, Armed Forces of the

SHOW 3 COPS A23

FLOWER CHILDREN Elementary pupils in colorful flower costumes join the street dancing parade to kick off this year's Panagbenga Flower Festival in Baguio City, which turned 180 years old this year. The "grand" street dancing parade has been scheduled for Feb. 28 and the floral float parade for March 1. (Story on Page A18).

Save capitalism, social democrats urged

By Amando Doronila

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER KEVIN Rudd on Saturday called on social democratic governments all over the world to use state power to "save capitalism from itself."

ANALYSIS

Rudd issued the call to arms at the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland, marked the collapse of more than 30 years of the dominance of global capitalism by Wall Street bankers in the wake of the most catastrophic financial crisis in 80 years.

In a major ideological essay on the shift of economic power to the interventionist state, excerpts of which were published by Australian and international media, Rudd said only social democrats, such as his Australian Labor Party, could harness state power after the "extreme

SAVE A23

GMA prods Obama to act on recession

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has urged US President Barack Obama to "do something" to address the worsening global economic crisis that started with the subprime mortgage crisis in the United States.

"What we want is for America to do something because the last thing we want is for America to do nothing. You may be vague on what should be done, but the worst thing is for it not to do anything," Ms Arroyo said at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, late Saturday night.

Obama is pushing for an $825-billion stimulus package on top of the $700 billion for the Troubled Asset Relief Program initiated by the Bush administration late last year to bail out banks and other financial institu-

GMA PROD A8

Davos meet sees rise of big gov't

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND—THE WORLD is entering an era of big governments with only state muscle powerful enough to fight the economic crisis, top leaders signaled at the Davos summit.

News of mass job losses and fears of social unrest and protectionism reverberated around the gloomy halls of the World Economic Forum.

But the absence of any senior member of President Barack Obama's US administration in the Swiss resort and numerous meetings in Washington left doubts about how closely the major powers will take up the battle together.

The "go-go years" are over, HSBC chair Stephen Green admitted, talking for beleaguered bankers at the elite

RISE A8

GO GETS GOING (AGAIN)

New error-filled textbook bared

GO: Book critic back with a vengeance. FILIMON P. GO

By Fernando del Mundo

ANTONIO CALIXTO GO IS BACK WITH a vengeance.

A sample critique is published on this page under his byline.

Last year, the self-styled "sick books" crusader had thrown in the towel.

A cabal of columnists had gone after him hammer and tongs after his media campaign against error-filled textbooks used in private elementary schools had finally resulted in the Department of Education (DepEd) banning the materials this school year.

The torrent of invectives in op-ed pages in newspapers—not to the liking—came in the midst of the rolling by a publisher of alleged extortion charges that a court had earlier dismissed.

Go, 57, academic supervisor of Marian School of Quezon City, has denied the charges. He had faced similar accusations, along with libel, through the

SPECIAL REPORT

dozen or so years of his lonely advocacy from authors and publishers he had stepped on.

But the ton of bricks hit at a particularly bad time. Go, who has been taking care of an ailing mother, had fallen ill. He told the Inquirer then that he could not deal with the columnists, his court antagonists and his own health's problems all at the same time. On top of this, he used that the campaign had elicited little public support.

"The decision to 'come back' was a

NEW ERROR-FILLED A23

BOOK lover Dr. Jeanette Rivera, coordinator of the Marikina City Library Hub, browses over a book from the warehouse. MARY JOY

DepEd library hubs serve far-flung schools

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE ROOM IS QUIET LIKE HOW A LIbrary should be, but the books are stacked in white plastic bins ready for transport, not displayed on shelves. Here students cannot regularly visit libraries like this, the books go to them.

To promote reading among public school students who would otherwise spend their idle time watching TV or playing computer games, the Department of Education (DepEd) has been setting up "library hubs" in strategic locations nationwide.

The hubs serve as warehouses where teachers can borrow books in bulk for

DEPED A23

'Drowned in mystery' and other boo-boos

By Antonio Calixto Go

The following items are among the more than 500 items of a similar nature that may be found in the just-released public school textbook (copyright 2008) in Reading for Grade 6 titled "English for You and Me," written by Elsalie A. Gale, published by Book Wise Publishing House, Inc., and printed in Bangkok, Thailand:

- The airport is open to passengers only.
- Humans may turn blue when they cry.
- The engine of the tractor is sleeping now.
- Ms. Vera, please entertain this computer.
- Vietnam Name Connects Red Flu.
- To Heal Earth Yourself, Start with Your Cat.
- She lives in a place that is drowned in mystery.
- I got a butterfly with flower-designed wings.
- The Delta Autumn tree had yellowish-white flowers which were as wide as an open hand, and smelled fragrant

DROWNED A23

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Cool nights and the Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rains. Elsewhere will have cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies.

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Kalibo/Boracay	Cloudy with rains
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with rains
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Iloilo	Cloudy with rains
Laoag	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with rains
Clark/Subic	Partly cloudy	San Jose/Mdo.	Cloudy with rains
Legaspi	Partly cloudy	Dumaguete	Cloudy with rains
Catarman	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains
Cebu	Partly cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with rains

Second FRONTPAGE

4D 2-27-28-15
SWERTRES 5-1-5 | 1-7-5 | 8-4-6
SUPERLOTTO 6/49 6-7-15-29-40-46
P92,781,716.40

Where's P330-B fund coming from?

Angara seeks source of stimulus package Palace is harping about

By Christine O. Avendaño

WHAT P330-BILLION STIMULUS FUND?

Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday said Malacañang should clarify where it will source the P330-billion stimulus fund that has been bandied about in the press.

"Where is it coming from? Where is it presided for?" Angara, chair of the Senate finance committee and otherwise a staunch ally of Malacañang, told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

Definitely the stimulus fund was not in the just approved P1.4-trillion national budget for 2009, he said.

The senator noted that Congress only approved a P50-billion fund to help stimulate the economy amid the global recession. This would help provide jobs and training for people affected by the crisis.

Angara also said he doubted the government could provide a P330-billion stimulus fund as that would result in the "deficit hitting almost four percent of GDP (gross domestic product)."

The senator said he initially heard that the Palace was considering a P330-billion stimulus fund with P50 billion to be sourced from the government and the other P80 billion from the private sector.

Because of the hard times, the private sector can't bankroll that amount, Angara said.

He reports that state can borrow funds like the Social Security System would be made in contributions to the stimulus fund. Angara agreed with Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson that the government could not just spend the pension money.

Palace officials should clarify their statements as their reports only tend to "confuse" and "mislead" the public, Angara said. "They should clarify: Where is the money coming from? Where is the authorization for that money?"

Sought for comment, Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said he would first look for clues regarding the stimulus fund.

In a statement he issued, Saturday, Angara said somebody should make it clear to international creditors, rating firm, Fitch Ratings, that it should have its concerns on the government's capability to put together and spend a stimulus fund on the P50-billion fund approved by Congress.

"This needs to be addressed because it's damaging to our country. Fitch Ratings was not addressing the P50-billion legislative stimulus fund which is in the 2009 budget. It was analyzing the announced P330-billion stimulus package and I myself am doubtful about where the P330 billion will come from," he senator said.

"That comment is damaging to us. Someone should stand up and say 'No, that's not a stimulus fund. You judge the stimulus fund put together by Congress because that's the legitimate way of appropriating money.' As I understand it, under a system of government like ours, only Congress can appropriate a spending package like that, unless someone has invented a money printing press and (is) going to print P330 billion," Angara said.

In a separate statement, Pimentel questioned why the Palace had not bothered to "secure authorization from Congress about the fund-raising scheme using funds of government financial institutions."

He said this did not conform with the constitutional mandate that no public funds may be expended without the approval of the legislature.

Pimentel said the Palace had "conveniently forgotten" to inform Congress what the P330-billion economic stimulus package "was all about and how it will be sourced." With Christine O. Tiglao

Nur changes mind about helping hostages

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE MORO National Liberation Front (MNLF) in Sulu has decided not to work for the release of the three members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

An Inquirer source said the MNLF in the province had backed out of its earlier offer to help.

Tillahally, Chairman (Nur) Misuari is no longer involved in negotiations for the three hostages. He has no intention of coming here in the MNLF is preoccupied with a coming tripartite meeting scheduled on Feb. 17 (to attended,) the source, who sought anonymity for lack of authority to speak, said.

Ustadz Zain Jali, chair of the Bangsamoro Peoples' Congress and national adviser of Misuari, said they were not withdrawing from their commitment to help but they would still need an "official mandate" from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Earlier, Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan urged national leaders to leave the resolution of the crisis to local leaders.

Jali said the MNLF could not do anything if that was the governor's request.

"For as long as there is no official mandate from Malacañang, we cannot lift a finger and touch for the release of the three people," he said.

An official of the ICRC, meanwhile, told the Inquirer members for the hostages would be shipped today in the latest. However, no details were given as to how they would be delivered to the bishop overseeing Jolo.

Task Force KBK, in its Jan. 30 media bulletin, reported that medicine for Italian engineer Eugenio Vagni, who was reportedly suffering from hypertension, "had been delivered."

Fidelito Abdulla, spokesperson for the task force, also reported that Vice Gov. Hut Asiri Abdulla, who was able to visit the victims where they were being held captive "swallowed (they) were able to receive books, medicines and other personal effects."

However, an Inquirer source told "It was not the vice governor who delivered the medicines, but her staff."

ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT 4-DAY
FEBRUARY 18, 19, 20 & 21, 2009
Inspection Dates FEBRUARY 14, 15, 16 & 17
OVER 1,000 UNITS TO BE SOLD
QUALITY TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT THAT WILL DO THE JOB FOR YOU !!
Inquire & Register on-line via: www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
LOWER NIU CAMP, ARGONAUT HI-WAY, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE, PHILIPPINES
Tel.: +63-47-252-3333 * Fax: +63-47-252-6840
E-mail: asiainc@subictel.com

United Auctioneers, Inc.
FEBRUARY 16, 17 & 18, 2009
(MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY)
ALL ITEMS WILL BE PARADED ON AUCTION DAY!
1,500 LOTS ALL MUST GO
INCLUDING SUV'S & PASSENGER VAN
INSPECTION DATES: FEB. 13, 14 & 15, 2009
HITACHI EX200LC

Subscribe to the Inquirer for only P18 per copy

Call 896-6000

MASTERCARD® REWARDS 5 CARDHOLDERS WITH A MILLION MABUHAY MILES EACH.

Congratulations to the 5 lucky cardholders who have won 5 million Mabuhay Miles in total by simply using their card abroad between October 12 and December 31, 2008. Even when you use your MasterCard on your travels there could be a surprise waiting for you when you return home.

1. Jennifer Marie de Guzman (Metrobank Gold MasterCard)
2. Sarah Jane E. Javellana (RCBC Bankard Black Platinum MasterCard)
3. Jennifer R. Marquez (Allied Bank World MasterCard)
4. Marianne G. Po (RCBC Bankard Black Platinum MasterCard)
5. Ma. Divinagracia Nieva Santos (Citibank Gold MasterCard)

MasterCard

FOR 1 WEEK ONLY

Don't miss this promo to start your slimming program. Enroll from February 2-7, 2009, choose 1 of these FREE treatment packages and get the body you want! Shed those pounds and inches, get rid of the saddlebags and ugly fat 'n flab. Call for a free consultation. Phone today – don't miss the promo!

GET THE BODY YOU WANT!

marie france

Call 894-BODY (2639)

www.mariefrance.com.ph

Lakas narrows 2010 presidential candidate choices to 4

By Christine O. Avendaño

LAKAS OFFICIALS HAVE NARrowed to four their choices for the party's standard-bearer in next year's presidential election.

The four are all perceived to be outside presidential contenders and "tactically acceptable" to Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri, who is also Lakas secretary general.

Zubiri declined to identify the four, however. "We don't want to expose our hand ... it's too early," he told the Inquirer in a phone interview yesterday.

In addition to one of the four being a woman, he said another was a "home-grown talent" and "maybe a dark horse."

Zubiri said the four were chosen from a shortlist of 10 possible candidates by Lakas officials led by chair emeritus, former President Fidel Ramos, during an executive committee meeting at Holiday Inn Resort in Clark Field, Pampanga, last week.

President Macapagal-Arroyo seconded the meeting but did not say long enough to pursue, prior to the discussion on possible candidates, Zubiri said.

President Arroyo, he said, "may take a back seat in the choice of the presidential candidate so that she could concentrate on her job, especially the crisis the country is facing."

"Once Lakas and Kampi get together, we can make our own decision ... and eventually we will present to the [Lakas] the possible candidates," Zubiri said.

He [Arroyo in Lakas national chair] said Kampi's founder ... Lakas considers [and] have something as possible presidential bets: Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, Sen. Richard Gordon and Vice President Noli de Castro.

Also yesterday, Sec. Francis Escudero indicated he would announce his plans for 2010 shortly when he turns 40 in December.

Clarifying an Inquirer story published on Saturday, Escudero said he did not announce last Friday in Iligan City that he was running for president next year.

"I am not yet qualified. That is my consistent answer to anyone, members of the media or anybody I meet, who ask me if I am running for the presidency in 2010," he said.

WORLD CLASS SLIMMING, FITNESS, FACE AND SKIN BY

SLIMMERS WORLD

"How I lost 10 lbs. and gained a

Bikini body

in just 30 days!"*

CORE POWER Training plus BIO-METRICS is the Ultimate in FITNESS, FAT & CELLULITE LOSS. It's the way that Maria Elena Lopena lost 10 lbs (Under Medical Supervision) to win the Miss Bikini Philippines - World pageant.

BUY 1 MONTH, GET 1 MONTH

FREE!

PLUS! BIG DISCOUNTS

on any Skin, Face & Body Treatments!!!

BUY 15 TREATMENTS, GET 15

FREE!

PLUS! BIG DISCOUNTS ON

VITADERM

CALL OUR ONE - STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE

536-3333 525-8771

091- SLIMMERS

www.slimmersworld.com.ph
inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

Fight over who's on top hinders merger

WHO WILL BE THE DOMINANT force in the merger of Lakas-CMD and Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) is the main stumbling block to the union of two of the country's dominant political parties.

Lakas, the bigger and older of the two parties, is looking on majority control and a bigger say in decision-making. But Kampi is reportedly demanding no less than a 50-50 share in the merger.

The issue is who will be the official candidates of the merged coalition in the local level.

"We're more or less as down [Kampi], it should be obvious who should be the surviving party in the merger. We will not settle for anything less than control," said La Union Rep. Victor Ortega of Lakas in a phone interview.

Ortega said Kampi should first accept that it would be the minor party in the alliance in order to pave the way for smoother discussions on other aspects of the merger.

Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez, provincial chair of Kampi, on the other hand, said the members of members should not be the only considerations in the merging to power-sharing agreement.

"They might boast of quantity but it's the quality of the leaders that matters. So the Kampi has ground to be the more wanted aggressive in pushing for national issues," said Suarez in a phone interview.

Suarez said Kampi did not consider Lakas superior and is viewed as alliance in a "merger of equals."

Last week, President Macapagal-Arroyo, Lakas leader of both Kampi and Lakas, ordered the fast-moving of merger talks in preparation for the 2010 elections. A national reconciliation and unification committee has been formed to map out the alliance parameters.

Lakas spokesperson Yeugen Pahay insisted on the process yesterday, saying the failure of the merger talks would reflect on the leadership of President Arroyo.

"That is the task of the President as who will defy her from Kampi?" he told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

"We're the dominant party and we're not actually begging," he said. "We're just following the orders of the President to merge with Kampi. But if it fails, we will still be the dominant party."

Pahay said Lakas was willing to work on the alliance for a "maximum of three months," after which the party would move on with or without Kampi.

Claudio said three months was a "reasonable timeline for concluding the merger."

Despite the negotiating fireworks, Ortega and Suarez agreed the merger talks should not affect moves to change the Constitution being pushed by Kampi and supported by Lakas. Ed Cabacungan Jr. and Christian V. Esguerra

The Global Economic Crisis: The Best Reason to Train Your People

Everyone sees tough times ahead in 2009. But companies that will successfully weather this year's challenges are the ones that fight the crisis head on.

These companies see the global economic crisis as the urgent reason to equip their people with the skills to lead, to sell more, and keep clients for the long term, manage and communicate more effectively, and craft strategic plans that translate into sustainable performance over an extended period of time.

That's why we're here. Guthrie Jensen's results-oriented training programs bring form into and solutions that will give your company the edge to excel even in these trying times.

Don't let the economic landscape drag you down. Take charge. Create the path that will give you the advantage. Get sharper skills for these tough times.

DEALING WITH CHALLENGING CUSTOMER SERVICE SITUATIONS

February 17 - 18, 2009
Mandarin Oriental Hotel

This program is for **for sales and service personnel, customer service representatives, service support personnel, account officers, technical officers, receptionists, secretaries, and frontliners**

Are your clients stressing you out?

Providing consistently excellent customer service is difficult enough but things can and do get worse. Demanding customers test even the most skilled service provider while awkward interactions that don't fall under the norm need to be addressed. With **Dealing With Challenging Customer Service Situations**, you will:

- Maximize your influence on the most difficult customer interactions
- Analyze the psychology behind a demanding customer
- Remain positive, efficient, respectful, friendly, enthusiastic, cheerful and tactful
- Defuse a hot-tempered customer, deal productively with those who feel superior, and tactfully guide interaction with customers who continuously talk about non-business issues
- Avoid being intimidated or bullied by the pesky customer
- Handle disappointed customers
- Calm down customers who feel they have been wronged
- Use words that customers want to hear and avoid words they don't

EFFECTIVE DEBT COLLECTION

February 24 - 26, 2009
Mandarin Oriental Hotel

This program is for **account managers, sales representatives, collection agents**, as all other members of your organization involved in collections

Are your receivables giving you headaches?

Even the best sales strategies are useless if collections are past due. Don't reserve your agents for their own devices. Use collection efforts as **opportunities for excellent service**. Learn to **collect debts while still keeping customer loyalty**. With **Effective Debt Collection**, the participants will:

- Develop a customer-centered approach
- Prepare for collection calls and no matter how tough
- Deal effectively with the three types of debtors
- Anticipate and deal with potential barriers and objections
- Discover and apply more effective ways of collecting receivables
- Use the right tone of voice to establish credibility and close cooperation
- Choose the right words to persuade the customer to pay now
- Create an action plan to guide them

CONFIDENCE BUILDING

February 24 - 26, 2009
EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

This program is for **all members of your organization** who wish to bring their confidence levels to new heights

Do you want to bring your confidence level to new heights?

Are anxiety and poor self-esteem getting in the way of your ability to perform well? Influencing more people by projecting greater credibility requires boosting your self-confidence. Your clients and colleagues will immediately sense this through you body language and speech, allowing you to take control of those limiting situations. With **Confidence Building** you will:

- Acknowledge the real person inside you
- Nail more wants of yourself and your talents
- Learn to control the negative thinking demons in your mind
- Overcome the fear of committing mistakes all the time
- Take control of your limiting self-impressions about what you can and cannot do
- Put across confident body language to everyone you meet
- Receive criticisms or feedback without getting upset or feeling sad
- Deliver bad news without feeling uncomfortable

29 Years

GuthrieJensen
CONSULTANTS TO MANAGEMENT
SHARPER SKILLS FASTER RESULTS

For inquiries and reservations call
Caroline, Diane, Li, or Tessa at 892-7559, 894-0460, or 892-7041
or visit www.guthriejensen.com
4th Floor ACE Building, 100-103 Rada cor. Dela Rosa Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City

Unilab ba 'yan

From facial wash to feminine wash. From skin ointments to iron supplements. We've thought of almost everything that a woman needs to look and stay healthy. And we've made sure that anyone who needs them can afford them. That's how we've made more Filipinas get better and feel better over the years. Small wonder then that for generations of mothers and daughters, trusting Unilab isn't a question.

UNILAB

Trusted Quality Healthcare

1,200,000 mass transit commuters &
110,000 copies distributed daily
5 days a week
1 favorite free newspaper

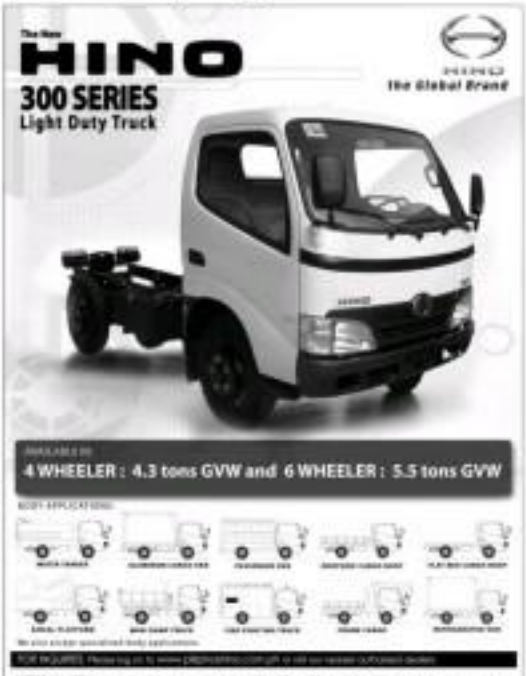
INQUIRER LIBRE

Since 2001, Inquirer Libre has captured the attention and interest of the MRT, LRT 1 and LRT 2 riding public. And now, more than ever before, more people are taking the trains while all the more appreciating getting relevant and concise news articles as well as exciting interactive reader promos – for free! No wonder Inquirer Libre continues to be the most-read free commuter newspaper in the country today.

So now is the best time to be in Inquirer Libre. With a pass-on rate of 5 to 7 people per copy, Inquirer Libre's captive audience exceeds more than 400,000 readers every single day! Plus, it's handy, convenient and complete – perfect for its discerning urban-minded readers... and you.

Call 897-8808 for inquiries.

Swiss cops, protesters clash in Davos forum



GENEVA—SWISS POLICE CLASHED WITH demonstrators protesting against the Davos forum on Saturday, firing tear gas in central Geneva after officers were pelted with bottles and fireworks.

Sixty people were arrested after hundreds of protesters converged on the center of Geneva to protest against the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, 150 kilometers of a line announced by local authorities, a police spokesperson said.

Organizers had appealed for calm, while attacking the ban on the march. But bottles and fireworks were thrown at the riot police who charged the demonstrators, using tear gas grenades.

"Around 60 people were arrested, of whom five have already been released," police spokesperson Jean-Philippe Brunisholz said two hours after the start of the protest.

He said no injuries had been reported on either side, adding that most demonstrators had been dispersed and only a hard core of some 100 militants were being contained by police.

After narrowly allowing the rally to go ahead, the regional government said earlier this month that the organizer of the demonstration had been unable to provide sufficient security guarantees to stage the event in the western Swiss city.

Blocked

Police equipped with a water cannon had blocked the planned route of the march, while participants were systematically checked and their bags searched.

In Davos itself, a group of several dozen protesters marched through the snow-covered Alpine village, holding a giant banner that read "You Are The Crisis."

Another small group chanting "No To the WEF" threw fake blood on security barriers and ripped down shooting on the perimeter.

Antiglobalization groups frequently protest against the annual meeting of the richest group of the world's bankers and political elite in the various mountain resort of Davos, although demonstrations have subsided in recent years.

Laurent Bleuliger, the Geneva canton's minister in charge of home affairs and policing, said last week: "We're not facing a popular movement, but a group of people who deliberately aim to cause havoc for a fortnight."

Rumors carried on Saturday called for freedom of supermarkets and abolished the "capitalist swindle," claiming that "the functionaries of the WEF are scrupulously defended by their executive delegations" as chrome attempted to provoke the police by ridiculing them.

Dispersed

Later Saturday, a "huge group" returning to the capital from the Geneva protest raised to hold a demonstration but were dispersed by security forces who used tear gas and rubber bullets, then police spokesperson Fanny Mordel said.

Organizers protested strongly over the breakup of the Geneva demonstration, with Eric Stauber of the Solidarites canton declaring: "The government of Geneva contains banned a demonstration for the first time in 15 years."

Earlier this month, a twice group of "anarchist and communist political forces" put out posters depicting three images of masked protestors, calling for people to join the "revolutionary block," as in "smash WEF."

That stirred up memories in Geneva of protests against a meeting of G8 industrialized countries in nearby Evian in 2003, which turned into running overnight battles between rioters and police and left shops ransacked.

Although the Davos meeting takes place on the other side of the country, the WEF's administrative headquarters are just outside Geneva and the group-size city's private banks and commodity traders are taking on something of a symbol for capitalism.

Davos, perched high in the Alps, is also confronted off by a massive security operation during the event, but a small, authorized demonstration of a few dozen people took place there on Saturday.

Police kept a low profile, and only some spectacular snowballs and a few shots were thrown by the protestors. AFP

Rise of big gov't seen

GET READY FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE...
FCBAI
FILIPINO-CHINESE BAKERY ASSOCIATION, INC.
BAKERY FAIR 2009
The 5th International Exhibition on Bakery, Confectionery and Foodservice Equipment & Supplies
World Trade Center - Exhibition Halls 1 to 3
February 19 - 21, 2009 • 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
EXHIBITORS WITH SEMINARS
Also please watch out for American Institute of Baking Seminar
www.fcbai.org
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 384-2818 or 384-2836

gathering. And Europe's main leaders made it clear that they want a greater grip on the international financial system.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel proposed a UN economic council on the lines of the Security Council that kept squabbling nations apart after World War II.

"Freedom is a necessary precondition for market forces to operate," Merkel said in a speech which condemned unfettered markets. "Individual freedom needs to be limited if it takes freedom away from others."

Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown called for a "global regulatory system" with a toughened up International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Governments have already spent $1 trillion bailing out banks, Brown noted. The government does not want to be a shareholder in banks but "you cannot have investing to the market," he said.

Threat of social unrest

Several ministers stated the specter of dark days ahead.

Police fought demonstrators in Geneva and there and kept other protesters at bay in Davos, as Brazil's Foreign Minister Celso Amorim warned: "We must vulnerable countries not to be victims of instability and social unrest with all its dire consequences."

French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde said "social unrest and protectionism are the two major risks of the world economic crisis. I think it's a risk in Europe, it's a risk elsewhere as well."

Hourly-rate pay increases and minimum payment eased in right protectionism.

But with sleep bells ringing over a US Congress marathon programing that only $10 used be bought with US stimulus package money World Trade Organization Director Antonio Brazil Lamy said there were already protectionist "spots on the radar."

"The more governments get involved in business, the more pressure there will be to protect national champions," said Jacob Kirkegaard of the Washington-based Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Kirkegaard said the G20 group of nations, which includes China, India and Brazil, should be the forum for discussing the new financial order.

The world is now waiting for a Group of 20 summit in April and would trade talks to send important signals about the intent of governments to work together to ease the pains of the crisis.

The French finance minister said the world was "working against the clock" to get proposals ready for the G-20 summit in London.

US attitude crucial

For most countries, the attitude of the United States will be crucial. China's Premier Wen Jiabao and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin both took pointers at the US role in the causes of the crisis and the dominance of the dollar.

There was no high-ranking American official in Davos to reply and little is known about what Obama thinks about the global regulation debate.

"I think the world is heading for an era of multilateral cooperation," said Howard Dean, until recently the chairman of Obama's Democratic Party who was in the Davos audience.

"There is going to be enormous pressure because of the direction of the economy, there are going to be political fears who appeal to nationalist economic reflexes is always in direction," Dean said.

"But I think we are so interrelated now that [also] think you can recall the conclusion that we have to work together," he added.

Robert Leverson, professor of international trade at Harvard University, said the United States would be ready for more international cooperation.

"But there is still going to be a very great reluctance to have those activities dominated by people whose roots don't reflect reality," Leverson said.

Merkel's proposal for a UN economic council would ring "negative bells" in the United States where the United Nations has a poor reputation, he said. AFP

mobile news
News on your phone.
Subscribe to INQUIRER news alerts on your mobile phone through SMS!
Breaking News:
Text ON<space>INQUIRER<space>BREAKING and send to 2207 for Globe
Text INQUIRER<space>ON<space>BREAKING and send to 2857 for Smart

More powers sought for BSP vs bad banks

By Doris C. Dumlao and Reynal Dionisio

THE LOCAL financial community has issued a collective assessment urging Congress to give the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) greater powers, including immunity from suit, to act swiftly against ailing banks.

Reacting to the recent collapse of 11 rural banks, private sector members of the Capital Market Development Council (CMDC), expressed "grave concern" over the inability of the BSP to hurdle judicial obstacles and act earlier against the banks that had shown signs of unsafe and unsound practices more than a year ago.

Prompt action

"Prompt and strong legislative action is called for to restore public confidence.

"While our economy may have been spared the direct hit of giant financial institution failures in the US, we need to brace ourselves for the full impact of the global economic and financial crisis," they said. "To do so, it is imperative that our domestic financial markets be kept stable," it declared.

The CMDC is a private-government sector advisory group chaired by the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) and cochaired by the Department of Finance and Securities and Exchange Commission.

Membership

Its members include the Philippine Stock Exchange, Philippine Trading System, Bankers Association of the Philippines, Investment House Association of the Philippines, Philippine Life Insurance Association, Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies, Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association, and Philippine Association of Securities Brokers and Dealers.

"We wish to express our grave concern over the circumstances surrounding the recent failure of a syndicated group of rural banks that engaged in fraud or pyramiding-like schemes," they said.

Alarming

"It is extremely alarming that vital regulatory actions of the [BSP] were banks have been impeded by court injunction or temporary restraining order," they added.

The associations were referring to the Legacy group to which 13 out of 16 rural banks that recently folded had been linked.

The banks ceased after engaging in double-your-money deposit schemes.

The BSP has explained that it had examiners' reports on Legacy's unusual practices but could not act because the group obtained last year a TRO from the Manila Regional Trial Court, which was subsequently affirmed by the Court of Appeals.

The BSP finally closed the banks in November but not after often the Supreme Court overturned the lower courts orders.

MCLE FOR LAWYERS

32nd MCLE – March 4, 5, 6 & 7, 2009

Sponsored by: ChanRobles Law Net, Inc.

REGISTER ONLINE at www.chanrobleslawnet.com

Tired of your OLD id card printer??

Trade It!

Call us now to get our lowest trade-in cost for any ID card printer.
Our two-year free unlimited technical support and attractive pricing, will surely allow you to make the decision to switch with confidence.
Valid until March 30, 2009.

Only from ACC

AVLS ALLCARD ALLCARD Hood

Main Office: ACC Corporate Center Building, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Q.C.
Tel. Nos.: (02) 913-0000 to 07; 911-1766; 911-1768 Fax No.: (02) 911-2509

The Hive - Makati Branch: Unit C GF Pasay Support Centre, Amorsolo St. cor. Ayala Ave., Makati City
Tel. No.: (02) 750-1828; 751-1828 Fax No.: (02) 751-1831

The Hive - Cebu Branch: The Hive Showroom Unit 111 Main Mall, Banilad Town Center, Cebu City
Tel. No.: (032) 346-8411 Fax No.: (032) 346-8412

The Hive - Davao Branch: #42 Lapu-Lapu Pl. corner Pichon St. (Opp. Ultico), Davao City
Mobile Nos.: 0922-811-1655 / 0918-912-7317 (Sun) 0927-850-2195 / 0922-813-5166 (Globe)

www.avls.com.ph • www.allcard.com.ph

APPLAUSE: ex-rebel-now, President Macapagal-Arroyo (third, from left) receives a point during a panel discussion of international leaders at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland

GMA prods Obama to act

Inquirer.net

DAVOS, Switzerland—Approved by the US House of Representatives last week, Obama's stimulus package has yet to hurdle the US Senate.

But alarm bells are ringing in Davos over a US Congress moreover proposing that only 3% need be bought with the stimulus package money.

At the plenary session moderated by Matthew Winkler, Bloomberg editor in chief, Ms Arroyo also called for a bigger voice for developing economies such as the Philippines in the crafting of a global approach to the crisis. She initially proposed expanding the Groups of 7 and 20 into a "G-30."

Reboot global economy

The proceedings, attended by new Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and retired Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer, were broadcast live via the Davos forum's website.

"Filipinos love America and what we see now is that it's so easy to have 20, 20 vision on hindsight when all this easy money policy was going. It was [very good for the world, everybody's GDP and our UN] because we had a lot of remittances coming from America," Ms Arroyo said.

"It was all fun. Then the bubble burst, but did we all know that the bubble was getting to be so big?" she said.

Saying it was time to look for a solution, Ms Arroyo made a pitch for a bigger role for poorer nations in addressing the global financial crisis.

The United State stimulates. Fiscal stimulus reforms in global financial regulations, completion of the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization and expansion of offshore such as the G-7 into say, a G-30.

One such alliance is the G-20 (Group of 20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors), which is set to meet in London in April.

"It is more than the developing countries now are doing better than the developed countries, and yet, if they will not have a say in how to structure the world economy, that's really wrong," Ms Arroyo pointed out.

New ideas

She said the developing countries must be represented in a bigger way. "They have something to share, how they are able to keep their countries resilient."

Asked about her optimism about a G-20 regime "when there's so much disunity in G-7 with its own problems," Ms Arroyo said the April gathering of the Group of 20 was "one to dictate" that the idea could work.

"If we don't have these diverse economies represented in the table, then perspectives would be lost and new ideas will not be generated," she said.

Ms Arroyo also did not seem bothered by the idea of the United States, a major Philippine benefactor, choosing "signs of protectionism" and as such, might "crowd out" funds for its poor allies.

"As far as the Philippine government is concerned, we have already financed our needs for the rest of the year, so we're not worried about that," she said. "And as much as the private sector is concerned, we have a lot of liquidity in our Philippine banking system."

Internal strength

Ms Arroyo added: "When I'm saying is that internal strength is very important to protect ourselves from external shocks, and part of that internal shock would be the disappearance of all these funds available to us if a giant like the United States would take it. Fortunately, we've done our homework."

She said the Philippines' withstood its "Tabasco pill," which enabled the country to remain in relatively good shape amid the crisis.

Ms Arroyo touted "very prudent fiscal and financial reforms," allowing the government to "invest in people as well as infrastructure for the fiscal stimulus (plan)."

The Arroyo administration is banking on a P300-billion stimulus package to pump-prime the economy. However, the Philippine Congress has approved just P92 billion in the 2009 budget.

Pump-priming the economy, primarily through massive infrastructure building, during the first six months of the year is the Arroyo administration's main strategy in combating the crisis.

The crisis is battering the country's export-oriented industries like electronics and garments, causing them to lay off workers or cut down the workweek to just a few days.

The Department of Labor and Employment says that as many as 300,000 workers may lose their jobs on the Philippines in the first six months of the year.

Philippine World Building and Construction Exposition

WORLDBEX 2009

'Leading the Way to Sustainable Development'

March 18-22, 2009

10am to 8pm

World Trade Center Metro Manila (WTCMM), WTCMM Air-Conditioned Tent
Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC)

Tel. Nos.: (632) 833-8388 or 833-8274 Fax No.: (632) 833-3838
Email: info@worldbex.com Website: www.worldbex.com

Ex-UN chief says crisis . . .

Inquirer.net

last week. Instead, new financial rules, the US stimulus plan and trade barriers dominated speeches and small talk.

"Corruption is a real concern," Kofi Annan, former UN secretary general, said in a private meeting on Saturday. "It depletes the poor from benefiting from some investments activities or assistance," and drains money meant for recovery from the Philippines economy, he added.

Annan urged rich world companies to pressure such other nations to clean up by pushing external audits on their websites, for example.

"There's a tendency to say that corruption is in the Third World. But it takes two to tango," he said. "The receiver is often from the South and the bribe is often from the North."

Scraping bottom

Angel Gurria, secretary general of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, warned that governments and businesses should be especially vigilant against corruption amid the crisis.

"It becomes particularly relevant at a time when countries are scraping the bottom of the barrel to make ends meet," Gurria said, suggesting that government's murky power by countries are more likely to demand bribes for lucrative contracts.

He also urged a crackdown on tax havens—describing a few political leaders have demanded amid the crisis but that barely come up at Davos. How country Switzerland is itself often seen as a tax haven.

Both Annan and Gurria touted investment programs aimed at fighting corruption, but acknowledged that it has the power to jail officials or executives who don't obey.

"Of course, we don't have an army to go out and enforce," Gurria said.

Poor pressure

Free pressure can be the most effective tool in getting big companies to clean up and level the playing field, he said.

"There's an ethical dimension, and a moral dimension, but there's also a business dimension," he said. If you want others play fair, your have to play fair, too, he added.

One program, the Partnership Against Corruption Initiative, includes 129 major world companies which agreed to conduct yearly self-evaluations of their practices. The group has kicked out some companies who didn't meet its clean conduct standards.

David Stanton, group president of engineering and construction giant Fluor Corp., called the initiative "a moral compass" in a competitive global marketplace.

When refuses to deal with some national governments because of their questionable practices, and has pulled out of countries where it felt corruption was too rife, according to Stanton. He would not name the companies or countries.

Individual countries have passed measures such as the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, aimed at punishing American companies who offer bribes even if it is outside the United States.

Some American companies complain the measure puts them at a disadvantage in foreign markets against businesses from other countries that are not held to the same rules. So those at Saturday's meeting urged more governments follow that path.

They ruled away free outsourcing have made bribe money has been thwarted by international anticorruption programs started in recent years—if not.

"If you save 10 percent, that's quite a bit of money going back into communities," Stanton said.

Annan himself had trouble fighting corruption within the United Nations.

Under his watch, the world body faced several bribery scandals involving Oil-for-cheating officials. Serious flaws in UN purchasing operations were exposed in the probe of the $64 billion called-food program in Iraq.

The former head of the program, Benon Sevan, a Cyprus national, was indicted in New York in January 2007, on charges of bribery and conspiracy to commit fraud. AP

Drug tests reset to get more info out

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd) has reset the start of random drug testing in public schools from today to Wednesday to give education officials more time to inform schools communities about it, Education Assistant Secretary Pathua Serana said yesterday.

Serana said the DepEd decided on the postponement after consultations with school principals in Metro Manila and the Department of Health.

"The drug testing is reset to Feb. 4 for us to have more time for the information campaign for students and parents," Serana said.

Around 8,000 schools will participate in the random drug tests, with 10 students per school being tested. DepEd will field 20 teams across the country to meet the target of 80,000 students tested for drugs by November.

Serana said the DepEd had already chosen the first 25 schools in Metro Manila where the tests would be launched and the postponement to Wednesday would give school officials enough time to explain to parents and students the confusion of the term.

The Commission on Human Rights had warned the DepEd that such random testing could be interpreted to be a violation of a person's right to privacy.

"Special features under these schools to explain that addiction is a health issue and drug testing is a screening tool that ultimately aims to provide treatment and intervention," said Serana, quoting the Dangerous Drugs Board.

"All students and their parents shall be notified in writing of the manner by which the random drug testing shall be conducted... Failure to return the acknowledgement receipt shall not be a bar to the conduct of drug testing," she said.

Serana said the 80,000 randomly chosen students "would first undergo screening tests," the results of which would be ready in a day or two. If a student tests positive, he or she would have to undergo a "confirmatory test."

A positive result in the confirmatory test is not a ground for expulsion or any disciplinary action against the student, she stressed.

The DepEd would instead refer the student to a government accredited laboratory or physician to determine the student's "dependency level."

"Positive results or drug dependency shall in no way cause the expulsion of the student nor shall it be used in advance any administrative, criminal and legal action actions against the student," Serana said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the random drug tests after a bribery controversy involving the prosecution of suspected narcotics illegal partners to free four-the-country drug pe-ddlout of illegal drug use in the country, especially among the youth.

GET THE SCORES YOU NEED TO QUALIFY OVERSEAS
IRS
PHARMACY: FPGEE(US) APEC (AUSTRALIA) PEBC(CANADA) PT: US NPTE TOEFL iBT IELTS
www.irsreviewcenter.com
(02)9134940 0917-6243870

House bill would boost film industry

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS approved a bill slashing the amusement tax on cinema tickets to resuscitate the local film industry that has been plagued for high taxes for more than a decade.

The chamber approved, on third reading, House Bill 5924 lowering the amusement tax on movie theater tickets from 30 percent to 10 percent by amending Section 140 of the Local Government Code, which imposed the high amusement tax.

Bulacan party-list Rep. Jonas Tiang, one of the principal authors of the bill, was confident a tax break would give new life to the local film industry as this would give producers a better chance to recoup their investments in what has been entirely seen as the most heavily taxed industry in the country.

"The movie industry is dying. Most of the movie theaters in the provinces have closed due to the twin problems of excessive taxes and film piracy," said Tiang, whose family owns Solar Films.

He blamed the high amusement tax for the steep drop in local film production, from an average of 200 films made annually in the 1990s to only 30 films made this year, aside from the amusement tax, local movie producers are slapped a 12-percent value-added tax on imported filmmaking raw materials and equipment, a 35-percent corporate income tax, and a 5-percent withholding tax on a producer's film share.

—Cathy Rodriguez Jr.

AFP pension fund on way out–Teodoro

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A BILL IS UNDER way that would do away with the scandal-ridden pension fund of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and pave the way for a new retirement fund for soldiers, according to Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr.

But Teodoro admitted that setting up a new pension fund to replace the controversial Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RABS) would be "more difficult."

Alternatives

"The alternative, right now, is for the government to continue paying for the retirement benefits through general appropriations every year," Teodoro said after reporters on the sidelines of the flag-raising ceremony commemorating Veterans Day at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

He said the Department of National Defense had already prepared a bill that would scrap the RABS and return the contributions to its members.

"The RABS has to be abandoned and it can only be done by law, so we've already prepared for that," he said.

Corruption

The RABS has been an alleged source of corruption in the AFP—with some of the officials, including the former president, retired Gen. Fidel V. Ramos Jr., linked to the fraudulent purchases of securities in the management of the soldiers' pension fund.

Rumored to facing IT counts of graft and 12 counts of falsification of public documents in the Senate/graft case involving more than P130 million in commissions each over the $10 million...

HONGKONG $34 $83 $93 $168 $57 $114 $2,738 $138 $98

ANKOR TRAVEL & TOURS INC.

50-4N BEIJING $199

Magallon World Travel, Inc.

Only PHP 6,000

DK TOURS & TRAVEL CO.

PROMO RATES

SAMS TRAVEL & TOURS

ASIA EUROPE

MuLAN TRAVEL SERVICE CORP.

2008 LUXURY TOURS

2008 HOLYWEEK LUXURY TOURS

CORPORATE AND INCENTIVE TOURS

TANGOULA Super Deluxe Train to TIBET

PANDA TRAVEL SERVICE INC.

RAKSO TRAVEL

(02) 812-9667

RAKSO's 10th Anniversary EXCITING TREATS

10th EUROPEAN ANNIVERSARY with LONDON

RAKSO 'My Country'

KOREA ASIA HK/CHINA PROMO FARES

ICECAPADE SPRING BLOSSOMS TASTE OF KOREA DAZZLING KOREA SEOUL

OCEANIA US/OTHERS

VISIT US AT THE TOUR EXPO

WWW.RAKSOTRAVEL.COM

Hunt on in another country for Marcos loot

By Philip C. Tubeza

WITH NO MORE Marcos ill-gotten wealth cases pending in Switzerland, the Presidential Commission on Good Government is readying its sights on another country where it believes it can recover "millions" more of the late dictator's hidden booty, PCGG Commissioner Ador Bautista said.

Bautista told the Inquirer that the PCGG in November was able to retrieve documents from a country which he refused to name, that supposedly contain the "mother lode" of Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

"This is potentially very large, definitely in the millions, we're talking of hundreds of US dollars," said Bautista, adding that naming the country now could jeopardize PCGG efforts to recover the assets.

From the new document/s," on leave it and the bank or take action," Bautista said with encouraging.

In November last year, it was reported that Liechtenstein had granted the Philippines' new petition for legal assistance and the transfer to the PCGG of documents to trace ill-gotten wealth.

The PCGG previous petition in July 2007 was rejected by Liechtenstein. However, due to recent changes in Liechtenstein's law regarding mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, a new Philippine petition was granted last year.

The PCGG announced last month that it had won the last pending Marcos ill-gotten wealth case in Switzerland amounting to $6.6 million.

The victory came after the Swiss Federal Supreme Court in December dismissed the appeal of Imelda Marcos and her brother Kokoy Romualdez to prevent the transfer of the $6 million to the PCGG. The Swiss Court decision was final and executory.

"This is the last. There's nothing more pending in Switzerland. The of course the former order on all Marcos accounts in that country is still in effect. So once a new account is discovered, we'll go after it," Bautista said.

The PCGG has recovered a total of P82.86 billion in Marcos ill-gotten wealth since it was formed in 1986 and has turned over the funds to the government's agencies or form programs. Of this amount, around P35.5 billion was recovered after 2005.

Panasonic DBX P16,499 FREE Local Inches
Idec Split Type Wall Mounted Aircon 1hp-P16,500 Free Installation!
United Tow Cars CAR LOAN 1 HR. RELEASE 656-0140
VIPER Hydraulic Parking Lifter Free Installation
$321 *2999
SAFE, EASY, AFFORDABLE!
MERCURY 150 liters (2-3 persons) - P25,000 Free Installation!
SCALE SPECIALIST! Fully Electronic Truck Scale ERICKSON SCALES CORPORATION
INCA FINANCIAL CRISIS SALE!!! 10-YEARS WARRANTY
Complete with polyethylene fittings
Buttons for corrosive chemicals
With separate drain plug
CASH SALES ONLY (pick-up)
Add P500 for Metro Manila or Metro Cebu delivery
as low as P9.00 per liter
INCA METRO MANILA
INCA METRO CEBU
Good Location, Good View BAGUIO VACATION APTS. Brand New
BIG SALE! COPYTRADE
LARGE FORMAT PRINTER

Dutch fund seeks local partners

EVEN THE DUTCH agency for international business and cooperation, has launched a new fund called the Private Sector Investment program (PSI) to stimulate financial growth, create employment and generate income in developing countries, the Dutch Embassy in Manila announced.

In a statement, the embassy said PSI subsidies were available for Dutch and foreign companies creating long-term business cooperation with local partners in developing countries, including the Philippines.

Under the PSI program, companies would be provided an opportunity to make an investment transfer agreement with a local partner. The EVD carries out the PSI for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Development Cooperation.

The EVD will open two tenders per year for project submissions. For the first tender, the EVD must receive the expressions of interest by 5 p.m. of Feb. 3, while the second PSI tender of 2009 will close at Aug. 20 also at 5 p.m.

Interested would-be partners are required to submit their project proposals to the EVD by the designated tender deadlines. Submitted projects will be judged by the standards of host innovation, necessity other things. Quelbia D. Juliano

ISM COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

P655 MILLION STOCK RIGHTS OFFER

ISM Communications Corporation ("ISM" or the "Corporation") wishes to remind its shareholders that, in accordance with the approval of the Philippine Stock Exchange, it will be undertaking a stock rights offering of **65,554,832,525 Common Shares** with a par value of P 0.01 per share to be issued from the unissued authorized capital stock of the Corporation ("Rights Offer"). All stockholders as of **February 4, 2009** (the "Record Date") are eligible to participate in the Rights Offer with the following basic terms:

Basis for Subscription	Shareholders will be offered one (1) Rights Share for every One and (92/100) (1.92) Common Shares held. No fractional Rights Shares shall be issued.
Offer Price	**One Centavo (P 0.01)** per Rights Share.
Offer Period	The Offer Period shall commence on **February 5, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.** and end on **February 18, 2009 at 12:00 noon.** The Corporation reserves the right to extend or terminate the Offer Period with approval of the PSE.
Payment Terms	The Subscription Price for the Rights Shares must be paid in full upon submission of the Application to Subscribe. There shall be no installment payments on the Subscription Price. Payment should be made by a check drawn against a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas - authorized bank in Metro Manila payable to **"ISM Rights Offer".** The check must be dated as of the date of the Application to Subscribe and crossed for deposit.
Use of Proceeds	The net proceeds will be used to finance certain information and communications technology related acquisitions and investment in Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. for the acquisition of telecommunications assets.
Lock-Up Period	The Rights Shares are not subject to a lock-up period and shall immediately be tradeable upon its listing with the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Interested shareholders are advised to visit **www.ismcomm.com** or **www.pse.com.ph** for a copy of the prospectus and for more information. Shareholders may also call (02) 380-2151 and ask for Mr. Rodolfo Ma. Pontemadia (Corporate Information Officer).

Republic of the Philippines DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DepEd
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

DOJ: Ring tone firms may be foreign-owned

By Marvyn Sardalona

MALACAÑANG officials over DOST projects in the telecom industry need not follow the 40-percent Filipino ownership requirement for public utilities, the Department of Justice said in an opinion sought by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

The DOJ said VAS providers, who supply ring tones, picture messages and other add-on mobile phone content, were not considered public utility firms under the law and by existing jurisprudence.

The four-page legal opinion signed by Assistant Secretary Raul Gonzalez said a VAS provider "only becomes a public utility if it holds itself out to whoever may wish to avail of its services."

"On the other hand, a VAS provider cannot be regarded as a public utility if it extends its services to a particular telecommunications company owned by a person or group of persons," the opinion said.

"Therefore, the nationality requirement imposed by the Constitution will only apply to the first but not to the second situation," it added.

The DOJ issued the legal opinion upon the request of the NTC as to whether the 40-percent Filipino ownership requirement in the Constitution applied to VAS providers.

The NTC, at present, requires corporations or associations engaged in VAS to be at least 60 percent owned by Filipino citizens, citing provisions of the Constitution and the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines.

"Also, it is significant to note that a VAS provider who is a mere owner or lessor of telecommunications facilities necessary to provide specialized services shall not be deemed a public utility," the DOJ said.

"The reasons given by the Supreme Court in despite The right to operate a public utility may exist independent of and separately from the ownership of the facilities thereof," it said.

NOW MORE THAN EVER
Businesses should come together in this time of global economic crisis because the role of corporate philanthropy becomes even more critical. "The needs of the poor will still have to be addressed, even in a downturn," guest speaker and inducting officer Manny V. Pangilinan (center), PLDT and Smart Communications chair, told the Management Association of the Philippines during its 58th inauguration evening and induction of directors recently. Others in photo [from left] are Smart/Pilipinas advisor Orlando B. Vea, PLDT Beneficiary president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno, Metro Pacific Corp. advisor Edward A. Tortorici, and DDB Worldwide Group president and CEO Gil S. Chua.

Batanes photo safaris begin

NOW ON ITS fourth year, Mandy Navasero's photo safaris to Batanes begin this month with not only landscape but fashion, portraiture, architectural, nature and abstract photography on the curriculum as well.

Navasero, who holds a BA degree in Professional Photography, major in Advertising and Illustration, from the United States has been holding her summer workshops in the northernmost province since 2006.

"Batanes is one of the 100 places you should see before you whine," she says.

A chance to bond with nature, sands of coconut crab and other native dishes, visits to the Monastery Tours, trips to Marlong Beach, and lectures on the history and cultural heritage of Batanes by Nestor Abrasia of the Philippine Information Agency await participants.

The workshop will be held on Feb 20-25, March 13-16 and 27-30, and April 3-6.

Registration and accommodations may be arranged at Mandy's Studio, LRD Bridge, Plaza, 2/F Skyway Garcia St., Basco City, through tel. 8391392; or e-mail: mandy-navasero@yahoo.com.

All payments in cash or credit card, should be made to Sky Travel and Tours Inc., Nava House, 223 Juan Quinco St., Manila, or deposited to the Sky Travel account at UCPB SA/ CA 1311088877-5. Fax the deposit slip to 8563268. For inquiries, call 5265051 or e-mail mandy@navasero.com.ph.

Chinese firm asks SC to junk plaint vs NorthRail

By Norman Bordadora

THE CHINESE COMpany contracted to undertake the Northrail project has asked the Supreme Court to dismiss court plaint seeking the annulment of the P888-million project, saying it cannot be sued in the Philippines.

In a petition for review on certiorari, the Chinese National Machinery and Equipment Group sought the dismissal of the suit filed by a group of lawyers since, it said, the Makati regional trial court had no jurisdiction over CNMEG and the billion-peso deal.

CNMEG has repeatedly argued before the Makati court and the Court of Appeals that the RTC had no jurisdiction over CNMEG since the company was an agent of China which is a sovereign state.

It added the RTC had no jurisdiction over the contract since it was the result of an executive agreement between two sovereign states.

"Petitioner CNMEG has already commenced its duties and responsibilities under the Northrail project, inasmuch as pursuant to the Chinese firm said in its petition filed by lawyer Luis Bengzon Jr.

Hindrance

"All of these would be put to naught if the proceedings will continue before the public respondent (Makati RTC judge Cesar Untouranzo). Without a doubt, the pending case before the trial court will serve as a great hindrance to the progress and development of the Northrail project," it said.

Public interest lawyers who include Harry Roque and Joel Butuyan sought the annulment of the Northrail contract before the Makati RTC, claiming it was disadvantageous to the government.

The petitioners noted the contract was awarded without a public bidding and that construction would result in the displacement of poor folk.

CNMEG questioned the jurisdiction of the RTC before the Court of Appeals which, in December 2008, upheld the Makati RTC's decision to continue hearing the case.

Expect rain today

THE DELAYED OF A cold front will bring rains today over northern Visayas and Mindanao while Luzon will experience similar weather because of the northeast monsoon, according to the Philippine atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

"The third region and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms," the weather bureau said in its 5 p.m. forecast yesterday.

The eastern sections of northern and Central Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated light rain. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy.

Yesterday, the tail-end of the cold front brought rains to Central and northern Luzon as well as the Visayas.

Moderate to strong winds blowing from the northeast will prevail over Luzon and coastal waters will be moderate to rough, Pagasa added. (With a Dione

ISSN 0115-2042 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 29 No. 30

OPINION

An impeachment

EDITORIAL

A SORDID SCANDAL, INVOLVING HIGH ELECTIVE office. Damning evidence caught by government agents on tape. An animated, outraged public. And a blustery chief executive vowing never to resign. It sounds like the Hello, Garci scandal all over again, but the case of Rod Blagojevich of the US state of Illinois ended differently.

After the state's House of Representatives impeached Blagojevich by a vote of 114-1 on Jan. 8, the Illinois Senate convicted the flamboyant politician and removed him from the office of state governor a mere three weeks later. The vote was unanimous, 59-0. (By a similar unanimous vote, the senate also barred Blagojevich permanently from ever holding public office in the state again.)

In the future, Blagojevich's stunning arrest, impeachment and removal from office will likely be seen as a bizarre footnote in the saga of Barack Obama. Blagojevich, who had the duty to appoint Obama's replacement as the junior US senator from Illinois, had tried to sell Obama's Senate seat to the highest bidder. In the short term, however, it offers us in the Philippines, enduring the last years of a controversy-ridden administration, not the anatomy of a scandal (surely we have more than enough subjects for study), but the mechanics of resolution.

Three lessons we can draw from the case. First, we need an investigation of power, impetus and tenacity.

Last December, US Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald unmasked the case against Blagojevich that he had been rolling up cautiously: "Governor Blagojevich has been arrested in the middle of what we can only describe as a political corruption crime spree. We acted to stop that crime spree." He quoted several times from the tapes that had caught Blagojevich red-handed, but he made special mention of the governor's attempt to sell Obama's seat. "The governor's own words describing the Senate seat, quote, 'it's a bleeping valuable thing ... You just don't give it away for nothing,' close quote," he added. "Another quote, 'I've got this thing, and it's bleeping golden. And I'm just not giving it up for bleeping nothing. I'm not going to do it, and I can always use it: I can practice me there,' quote. Those are his words, not our characterizations, other than with regard to the bleep."

What is noteworthy is that Blagojevich was caught in rape at a time of increased scrutiny; his administration was already under investigation for what Fitzgerald called "pay to play" corruption. "You might have thought in this environment that pay-to-play would slow down. The opposite happened. It sped up."

The many critics of the Arroyo administration believe that this is exactly what is happening now, in the many executions of Maguindanao. But the difference is, the justice system in Illinois worked overtime, to do its job. Here, the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman, by failing to prosecute with vigor or dispatch festering corruption scandals like the P728-million fertilizer fund scam, have virtually become enablers of ongoing corruption.

Second, we need a House of Representatives that places the state's highest interests above its own. When faced with the eight articles of impeachment, and especially when confronted by the evidence that issued from Blagojevich's own mouth, the Illinois House swiftly moved to impeach a governor for the first time in its history. This could not have been an uncomplicated decision to make, because of the governor's many ties with congressmen. What is noteworthy is that there was very little talk among the congressmen, as reflected in media reports, about impeachment being a numbers game. Confronted with the evidence, all but one member of the Illinois House believed that the case merited a full-blown impeachment trial.

Third, we need a simplified procedure for prosecuting an impeachment trial. Last December, the four that any Senate trial of Blagojevich would extend for months was shared by many; it was a fear we in the Philippines sympathized with, because of our own experience with impeachments. In fact, the Blagojevich impeachment proved to be efficiently managed. In part, this was because the entire case was prosecuted by only one lawyer, House prosecutor David Ellis.

Thus, in less than two months, the state of Illinois recovered from the terrible shock of seeing a corrupt chief executive caught on tape, and removed him from office. There is much to learn.

Publisher Isagani Yambot
Editor-in-Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Joaquin M. D. Henares
Associate Editor Melquiades S. Gunigundo
Associate Editor for Special Projects Rolando A. Gonzalez
Opinion Editor Jenny V. Abaya
News Editor Antonio T. Enriquez Jr. • Chief, Page One Operations Hazel B. Pasion
Chief, News Copy Desk Ramon G. Alagaysay
Assistant Editor Esperanza G. Katigbak Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Jane V. Sarmiento Jr.
Editorial Consultant Eduardo L. Yan Jr.
Chief Photographer Edwin U. Tadena Sr.
Art & Design Director Lisbeth R. Villaseñor

Board Chairman Marixi R. Prieto
President Alexandre Prieto-Romualdez
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Renato B. Ramirez
VP for Advertising Felipe B. Gozon
AVP for Circulation Susan Green R. Tan

All rights reserved.
Design by Lisbeth R. Villaseñor
Logo by Carlos Celdran
Logo for Sections by Ramon Orlina
Logo for Special Publications by Jose Tence Ruiz
Nameplate and Editorial Page Layout by Lisbeth R. Villaseñor

QC councilors are squatter coddlers

WHAT IS SURE THE QUEZON CITY COUNCIL has proposed an ordinance declaring a moratorium on the eviction of squatters in the city "until there are enough 'relocation' sites for affected families." That means squatters from all over the Philippines, professional squatters or otherwise, will flock to Quezon City because henceforth, under squatters, QC is already known as the "squatter capital of the Philippines." It has the most squatters in the country and has the largest squatter colonies. The new QC ordinance will make the city named after President Manuel Quezon the "squatter capital of the world." I think those the QC council is pretend to patronize will be flattered by that title.

Why are the councilors doing this? Simple. Next year is election year and squatters are voters. And politicians will do anything, even sell their own mothers, to get votes.

It won't only be the squatters already in place who will benefit from the ordinance. It will also benefit the unfortunate few who are lured into squatting from other parts of Metro Manila and the Philippines. So you see, the incumbent councilors would have the advantage over all other candidates before the election season starts. The ordinance, the councilors would say, is for humane considerations. But it is actually to aid of political considerations.

The presiding officer of the QC Council is Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista. Herbert is the first appointee of Mayor Sonny Belmonte when he moved to be the next QC mayor, then being re-announced squatters-corrupt-boy. Mary Ann Bautista of the second district. But if this is the way the QC Council is performing under him, then it looks if for the city, these councilors are the ones who have the temerity to rob the people of Quezon City to vote for them when they are selling them, the taxpayers, down the river?

The taxpayers, the homeowners and businessmen, have made QC the richest city in the Philippines, richer than Makati and Manila. The rate condos and even higher real estate prices. Thanks to these taxpayers, QC has more than P4 billion in the bank—and growing. Think of the commissions the grateful banks give to those who decide where to deposit the funds.

Where does the money go? The government spends it for the millions of squatters in the city who do not pay taxes at all. And for the councilors. Those useless councilors polluting the city greeting CIAA and CNC hookup fo who Mayor Happy birthday congratulating graduation windows, wishing "happy valentines" and "happy fiesta" to nobody in particular—they make all good with the fairies you paid. And, all for what? To remind the voters of the names and faces of the councilors.

Those basketball courts and pool halls in the squatter colonies—they were paid with your money. Those concrete streets—they were the names of the councilors etched in stone like the Ten Commandments at the foundation of each barangay hall. Many of the new roads in Metro Manila Development Authority is already putting up better seating deals) with the names of councilors painted in big bold letters on them—they were all paid with your taxes.

What do you do with squatters, get to return for the votes you pay? Nothing. You would expect the city government to at least help you reclaim your property from the squatters because you are a taxpayer and they are not. (They use up your basic services.) Did you ever see a councilor help you? Did you ever see a councilor help you get the QC government to recover any lot from squatters since the time of Mayor Adelina Sa-diparsa. Did any of the mayors help? Ha ha ha. If they did, why are the squatters still there and I am still here looking from the outside?

What is the councilor do to help the homeowners? Help the homeowners? On the contrary, they pass ordinances increasing the real estate taxes for lots squatted on. The owners pay those taxes, not the squatters who use the lots. They may pass more ordinances prohibiting the development of squatters.

Can the councilors pass an ordinance overturning the rights of ownership? Can the councils of precinct for owners from ejecting squatters from their properties by the mere passage of an ordinance? Can the councilors prevent the city government of the MMDA from performing their duties of ejecting squatters and enforcing law and order? Of course they cannot, but why do they try to block the enforcement of laws? Because of votes.

When there is a squatter demolition in any part of the metropolis, who are the first to show up to stop the law enforcers from doing their duty? The councilors—and the congressmen, especially Rep. Bingbing Crisologo. They will be to the law enforcers and play up to the squatters: "Kawawa naman sila." They are actually guilty of obstruction of justice. Because of votes. Votes are actually more powerful than the law in justice. Politicians will beg, steal or borrow, sell their own mothers and violate the laws in order to get votes.

What can we taxpayers do? Well, aside from a tax revolt, the best way is the ballot. Do not vote for the squatter coddlers. If a councilor or congressman tries to stop a demolition, remember his name and don't vote for him in next year's election. Tell him in the mail, wherever he is, as long as he is not a squatter coddler himself. Don't vote for the politicians whose tarpaulins you see put hanging-tie city. They are stealing your taxes to pay for those tarpaulins. Don't vote for politicians whose names you see painted on walking decks. They did not pay for those walking decks. You did. Don't vote for politicians whose names you see on the backboards of basketball goals erected in the middle of streets so that squatters can play basketball, instead of working, and preventing the public from using the streets.

Don't vote for squatter coddlers. By the way, the author of the proposed ordinance granting a moratorium on the eviction of squatters is Councilor Bernadette Herrera-Dy.

Implosion

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE SPECTACLE OF ONE HEROIC AFTER another overnight by this country's highest officials had me contemplating a phenomenon in history. That is the phenomenon of epochal change happening quickly, or rapidly ending abruptly, almost without warning.

That was true about the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Both happened with a suddenness that caught the world by surprise. Everybody knew social unrest was in free fall, glasnost having become a public fact, to use Marx's favorite metaphor, spreading wildly across the socialist world. But nobody seriously expected socialism to crumble so swiftly as it did. The world just woke up to the sight of the Berlin Wall being torn down brick by brick, barbed wire by barbed wire, the East Germans rushing in joy to the Westbound freedom. Not long afterward, the Soviet Union followed the Wall, collapsing on its founding fathers like Twin Towers in 9/11.

That was true as well of the death of apartheid in South Africa. Everyone knew apartheid, institutionalized white supremacist rule, was inexportable given the seething number of blacks and their politicization and the memories of the white regime by its gifted statesmen, but no body expected apartheid to end as swiftly as it did. The world just woke up one day to see Nelson Mandela elected president of South Africa and the former rulers brought to trial for crimes against humanity. Everyone expected Mandela to come to power too, having attained a stature not far off from the iconic one of Che Guevara, quite apart from having led the fight against apartheid, but not that suddenly.

Just as well, there's the collapse of Wall Street right out of the box. Several financial institutions only recently thought of as impregnable, quite Biblically having the high low, if not visiting the lowly high. Experts know trouble lay ahead, but not even the experts knew it would come this fast. The bottom fell out for the highest echelon, Barack Obama becoming president, tossing down America's own version of apartheid, a neo-slaughter more benign matters at least for its victims. Everyone too expected the racial barriers to fall "someday," nobody expected them to fall today. Probably not even Obama.

Closer to home, everybody knew ferdinand Marcos was in deep repute, but time during the mid-1980s, Capitol Right had lost the country. By 1986 pouring only Orwellian as the economic nightmare it produced. Its himself was sick, as everyone suspected, naturally sounding his demise, or probably because of them. There was speculation about how far he will hold the reins of power, that to December 1985, nobody would have bet he would be out in a couple of months. Indeed, at the time he was ousted, Ronald Reagan and his boys at State were still rushing up joyous slurring schedules, holding that thought he was part of the democratic forces in the face of the fact.

There's no end of instances of this. Edsa II being yet another. The lesson history offers here—which is why my mind wandered to this direction from the spectacle of scandal upon scandal being heaped on the head of this: In all these instances, the fall, or collapse, or abrupt end happened not just because of festering from the outside but because of festering from the inside. It happened not just because of the barbarians at the gates, as was the case with the Roman Empire, but because of the barbarians inside the gates. It happened not just because of explosive but because of implosion.

In all these instances, it was internal decay and disintegration that brought the furious down. It was as much as the hollowing out of the structure. Probably far more than them. With the Roman Empire, it was the corruption and lassitude of the emperors, who tried to pacify a restive population with bread and circuses. With the fall of the Wall and dissolution of the Soviet Union, it was the repression, which reached untold heights with the KGB and Stasi. With the economic crisis, it was the imperial overreach of a bunch of American ultra-rightists, or at least they precipitated it, the contradictions of unbridled capitalism already being there, giving socialism its chance to laugh, have at last revenge to be seen, on its archenemy. And Obama emerged from the collapse of an arrogant and vicious rule which had America yearning for change, even if it had to take the drastic, extreme and radical form of a black president.

The tremendous irony is our soldier seeing the crumbling of the Twin Towers, an edifice collapsing on its foundations. A structure that saves in from its own unsupportable weight. Implosion. That is the preoccupation at least, if not the obsession, of the Arroyo regime. And in this regime today, every day bringing fresh news of spectacular wrongdoing by people on the top. It is the sight of us under in the first stages of imploding. It is the sight of us under careering on its face, almost to collapse. Outside the fact that the plot apart the hammering the drama of orders like this—opposition to any attempt to amend even limits will awaken it here. But the seeds of collapse are already there.

The only problem of course is that you don't know when it will happen. The Arroyo regime never any guarantee the implosion of a tyranny will spark an explosion of democracy. It did not in many of the instances cited above. Certainly it did not after Edsa I because once Cory Aquino took the seat of power, she was already in the falsehoods of Edsa mythology.

Of course the current regime looks only at the height of its powers right now, but that can it the fallback of values that implode. They look formidable just before they do. Much like the guy who fell off a skyscraper who looking as he passed the first floor, "So far so good."

Until he reached the pavement.

'A balanced and healthful ecology'

A PROVISION IN THE 1987 CONSTITUTION, which once some see as unnecessary, has been profoundly affecting mindsets. Section 16 of Article II says: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature." In tandem with it is Section 15, which says: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

Section 16 is considered among those broadly stated, which in that, whereas almost all the other provisions in the Article are not self-executing but need implementing legislation to make them effective, Section 16 has been recognized by the Supreme Court as self-executing like the provision in the Bill of Rights. As early as 1993 the Supreme Court already recognized it, in comparison with the right to health, as enshrining the right of a group of minors to challenge logging contracts that violate their right to a balanced ecology" and "the correlative duty to refrain it can impairing the environment."

Not long after that the Court upheld the right of the Laguna Lake Development Authority to be responsible for the ecological protection of Laguna Lake and the development of the region, even if the governments around the lake. The Supreme Court linked Section 16 with the fundamental declaration of Human Rights and the Alma Conference for humanized 1978.

Being a similar vein, in 2007 the Supreme Court upheld the validity of an ordinance of the City of Manila requiring the oil companies to store and transfer the Pandacan Terminals to another location within a specified period.

The thrust on this subject came out only last

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

December 18 [illegible] Development Authority's Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Supreme Court ordered various agencies of government to desist [illegible].

All these have come about because of the decision of the makers enunciated in the Constitution to ensure for the people a healthy environment. The committee noted policy, even if already self-executing, has been injected with an element of urgency through constitution.

One lawsuit involving interest on the subject is an ordinance promulgated by the City of Davao regulating a step to aerial spraying of fungicides in the plantations of banana. I never about the last week saying that this is unfounded business. The ordinance was brought to court and one of the issues was whether it violated the constitutional right to that aerial spraying was the source of illnesses reported by affecting some people in the area. The Court of Appeals found no conclusive evidence and new this as one of the reasons why the ordinance should be invalidated. Another reason was that although scientific and medical evidence of switching to a different method of spraying fungicides.)

About the issue of lack of evidence. Fr. Joe Ollanda, S.J., president of Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro and scientist whose annual expertise is environmental matters, made some interesting observations for letter he sent me. He says:

"Environmental laws and regulations exist mainly by the precautionary principle. This principle simply holds that mere lately in the science should not be an obstacle or excuse to postpone instituting action. It is a conservative principle which in the case of scientific uncertainty places the burden of proof on the polluter not on the affected, i.e. the polluter has the responsibility to prove that what is being spewed into the environment is not harmful. [The Court of Appeals had said that the planters had failed to do this.] Conflicts do not have to be possible to establish a causal link between the effluent and the sickness. In view of scientific uncertainty the presumption was that the chemical is harmful.

"Aerial spraying is better deployed in advanced countries where there is medium and agriculture and land holdings are maximized. In the Philippines and other developing countries, constraints in the land [illegible] make the land [illegible].

"The degree of harm depends on the lifetime, human exposure and concentration levels of the chemical. These will depend on the state of the atmosphere. Greater control of the dispersion of chemicals is possible in stable atmospheres. Temperature inversions are frequently unstable and less predictable. Use only need to ask a fisherman who knows how locally unpredictable sunrises and sunsets are.

"If I were a human plant manager, I would seriously weigh the marginal cost of navigating the effluent to the point of discharge [illegible] adopting another technology alongside the existing safety zones of possible medical, rehabilitation, and legal close action to the future. If these months are not enough to change opinions, I would suggest for a protracted withdrawal schedule." Thanks, Fr. Ollanda, for your letter.

"If I were a human farmer, I would try to convince my area that people are better than plants. People are my friends [illegible]. Plants are only fit.

"As a priest, I hope that our judges and our agriculturists see that human insight be as useful as their knowledge. God's bottom line might be different from theirs."

Of course, the last two paragraphs are neither science nor law. But they can be of greater significance than either science or law, or business.

Some stars are born this way

TAKE ONE BELT OF CALAMANSI JUICE, HALF A bottle of Isabel's Sinilang, and mix it with kilo of brown sugar. Put them all together. To temper the flavors, make it hot tempered at least three months.

Now you have Mexican Magic, to season food, sweeten conditioner, while others know that as an anti-aging potion. This man who first born the secret of a tipsy-gay was behind in Little Baguio, home to Cory Aquino and Senator Noynoy Aquino.

Mila Bautista-Lim, secretary of the Little Baguio Senior Citizens Association, came up with the idea of forming a cooking group for the holidays. But there was a problem. We were only three seniors. But none is daunted so as that one did not have to be a senior citizen to belong to a cooking group. Why not add the seniors and call our selves "Seniors and Friends"?

Retired teacher Lutz Mendoza was sang about the idea of a singing group and offered both her CD player and her brains, as a practice venue. In two days, she had come up with our experiment of "Seniors and Friends." She found the name of the tune all those years among men the "Friends" in Seniors and Friends.

Ester found her role to. She purchased us to Ed-ward Jones and he with Ruth, a lovely Brazilian who needs real living, as well as to Rosie Magsaysay, a retired teacher who is a widow and has no children. We found Cherry Pie found Tony Mo, a health worker. Edna Mendoza, a parish worker in a religious community, and Joe Rodeo, member of the Barangay Lupon.

Then I met Alan Mercado, a church choir soloist in his early 20s, and enticed him to join our group. Alan was a bit shy at first but when he saw what a 17-year-old boy had joined, he sang-ods and lined up the ladies' line. Suddenly, the average age of the group dropped to about middle-age level. And both Alan and Arlyn raised the quality of our voice to levels not believed before.

Lutz is a fine trainer. Alan was made to submit to rule on the Christmas season.

The first practice night was a revelation. We found that we still loved to sing. But we also found that we could not sing well anymore. I noticed that when I tried to hit a high note of choir from decades ago and I discovered I did not sound the same. It was hard to accept reality. Slowly my self-esteem levels left the latter way. We just had to start all over again.

Slowly we picked up on boosting from the diphragm and letting the voice out "effortlessly," we were told, and to sing-ods again.

The ladies also suggested that we do not to-tals-ple choreography to spice up our performance. Edwin and Beth coached out to Glorian Gerson, a music teacher at the University of Santo Tomas. Glorian brought with her a young choreographer, Camille Dizon.

Camille smiled, waved our hands and cajoled the seniors into moving left, right, backward and forward. Just like we did in younger days. She told us to swing our hands to the left and that side while smiling all the time. Wow. That was not easy.

But it was fun, too. We began to feel young again, enjoying both the singing and dancing. For the last time, seniors and friends moved, bobbed and swayed like a real singing group.

The first night on the dock, we were nervous, eager, confident and skeptical all at once. Our first four numbers were Tommy Sands' There's a World (now screams), who lived at the Felicidad-an in Mandaluyong City. We were all eager to show off our choreography. we plugged in our CD player and were ready to go. But then Ester suggested that we sing to her beautiful garden. There was no one to see us except our garden gnome. So we bravely swayed and smiled and moved our hands in-tuned.

We proceeded back to Little Baguio, to the home of Doctors Leticia and Paul Soberano. They greeted us with hugs and kisses and provided a little dessert in their eyes. Then, can this bunch of seniors sing?" Again, we sang in the garden and hid the choreographer goodbye.

Our major performance came several evenings later, before Little Baguio's high-profile residents: the mayor's mother, Ms. Cory Aquino. We were nervous—mostly because we were mostly Ms. Cory's fanmail, mostly to our singing and almost forgot my bad mother appointment. There, too, were other caroling groups behind us, waiting for their turn. But they had to wait because the Cory's fan fan because Juliet with us. We had Cory—and billions of Filipinos—but our group knew a feature.

Inspired, we moved on to the tunes of Reginald Watson, a member of San Juan Del. We were a bit early. But the gods decided to play games with us: our CD player conked out, and we had no sing a capella. Per seniors showed their true colors. They sang and danced. Minus the CD player, we were still good. Minus the lights, we were barely sing solo. We survived that night, too. Only thought Councilor Mohsen looked relieved that we had to end the concert early.)

Those who heard us must have wondered: Where could they have sung that well, or were they all rich? Well, we did. Minus the Magsaysay name, we are just like you. Most of us are former teachers, or nurses, or nurses who have performance time. We were able to sing without inhibitions, our voices came out of hibernation in levels and they should. We would have danced gracefully, too, we have no doubt but we decided at early hours were no gardens.

Senator Al Cauldron Jr. 08, is a retired banker.

HIGH BLOOD

Aravind B. Cauldron Jr.

WILD also like to know the concerns of the dispossessed king and above, what makes their hearts pump faster and blood flow? Is it death, comfort? Bed all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

Senior citizen perks just a dream for many

LAST THURSDAY WAS A CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND ALSO of death in the family. It was the 12th anniversary of my triple bypass operation at St. Luke's Medical Center, and each time I swing a golf club, I am reminded that the basic work and treatment of my cardiologist, Dr. Benjamin "Jun" de Castro, has allowed me to keep going through the last 12 years with relative strength and comfort.

Doctors Greg Regis, Butch Sairo and Nelson Dog are also on my medical team. I am [illegible] during the early phase of my ailment.

REVELLE

Ramon J. Farolan

It was also the birth death anniversary of my father, Modesto Farolan, and I thought [illegible] Dad was also one of the first and attention extended to him during critical times of his life. Dad would have been 109 this year. A self-made man with just a high school diploma to his name, he earned our several careers in journalism and government service through sheer determination, hard work and discipline. In the tough world of newspaper work, he was a top reporter and columnist and eventually rose to chief of the Philippines Herald, one of the major dailies of his time. Working into turbulent times, he organized the Philippine Veteran and Travel Association (PTA) and became the nation's first commissioner of tourism under President Ramon Magsaysay. He was not his industry-minded to let his "Fe-Fo-Fum" of Philippine "beat him." A string of diplomatic assignments in southeast Asia to South Vietnam, Switzerland and also in Indonesia would round out his career in government.

* * *

At the age of 66 going on 67, former Senate President Jovito Salonga continues to fight for our rights in his late 80s through a diverse array of causes in economy.

Last December, he went to a Jollibee outlet to test the observance on lack of it of the Senior Citizen law. To his disappointment, the outlet refused to honor his senior card, insisting that he pay in cash. They probably thought an old man would not make too much fuss over the matter, even as they sense "senior moments" when they were dealing. His credit card had the same no.

Well, that was a big mistake. Right after the incident, Senator Salonga informed Vice President Noli de Castro of his experience, calling my unclear encounter on On-time show with Mareng Winnie. He added that despite my advanced age, I am still a fighter and I will not take this lying down. Call it on the side of the customer or the side of convenience." The Vice President then wrote the president of Jollibee, Mr. Ernesto Tanmantiong, "requiring them to comply with the law allowing the Senior Citizen discount for both cash and credit card purchases."

Apparently as a result, a meeting was held at the office of Senator Salonga with Jollibee personnel to straighten things. The explanation given by Mr. Melchi'jose Palanca, Jollibee executive branch manager, for the non-acceptance of his credit card was "loss, work in banking credit card facility machine." Senator Salonga found it difficult to accept this answer. "We are not popular in the food consumer in this country" didn't help matters. He then explained that their appliances for the machine was being processed from supplier specify at actual operation could be. He apologized for the inconvenience, adding that once they had the machine, credit cards would be accepted.

Translation: Senator Salonga's complaint about Jollibee—a food giant in this country—not having a credit card machine. On the other hand, it is possible that a newly opened franchisee by in such a predicament.

Jollibee could have easily avoided this incident if its personnel immediately informed Senator Salonga about the absence of credit card facility, or at least apologized for inconvenience [illegible]. Personnel is to ensure compliance about business establishments not accepting credit cards for senior citizen discounts. But we must always be prepared to call attention to those violations of the law if we are to eliminate the "lack of convenience" as practiced by many firms.

* * *

Another lucky senior, Eddie T. Tinio, at 75 the oldest living radio-TV personality in the country today, and president of Golden Eagle Society International, sent me some notes on his dream of putting up a Philippine counterpart to the Senior Center in Davao. Sense that I mentioned in some last column.

The Center would be called Golden Eagle Arcadia, after a region in ancient Greece offering rest simplicity and tranquility. It is currently an ambitious project indicative of Eddie's concern for the welfare and dignity of the elderly in our country. His goal is for Arcadia to be a health and spiritual retreat for our senior citizens. Eddie explains that "Seniors need to open those who care for and service the sick and the elderly."

Incidentally, Eddie's "Book of Seniors," a compilation of jokes, medical advice and words of wisdom concerning senior citizens, makes for interesting reading for people of all ages. One striking bit of information culled from Ann Pendleton of the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF). She says, "during the next two generations, the number of the world's people older than 60 will quadruple, rising from 600 million now to 2 billion in 2050 ... They will outnumber children for the first time in human history. More and more, it is not the children who are our future; it is the seniors ... like us are the future."

Last Saturday, Eddie received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Entertainment Press Breakfast Club Philippines (EPBP) for his "long service in media as a disciple of truth in information."

* * *

One of the most encouraging letters that I have received from senior citizens comes from Benjamin "Ben" Quinto of Barangay San Jose in Lipa City. It highlights the widening gap between the haves and have-nots in our society. For many of our elders, the perks of senior citizenship remain just a dream.

Declares writes: "There are more poor senior citizens than the have' ones. Four senior citizens do not participate [illegible], KBL and other [illegible] classes. We make do with 'non-rent' or 'kaibas.' Concern and caring parents are taken for us. I have one house per to enter a hotel. But no regular [illegible] riders. Buses, LRT, ships and airplanes are for the associated senior citizens. Private homes and hotels are not for us. Restaurants are expensive, drugs are not within our reach. How much more enjoying the comforts of St. Luke's and other well-known, expensive medical centers."

Did we can make the gap between rich and poor in the country, many of our lives do not otherwise carry the interests of the vast majority of our people.

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

That's (not) entertainment

LETTERS

ALTHOUGH THE JAN. 26 HEADline on the P728-million fertilizer fund scam was entertaining because of the humorous answers given by Jaime "Tito Sotto" Pardo, it was actually more of a disappointment. Just imagine how the farmers felt, knowing that their concerns were not being taken seriously by our leaders. Fertilizer funds for farmers were allegedly stolen, but those conducting and attending the hearing somehow made a joke of it. They were gathered there to resolve a case, not to be entertained.

Moreover, this kind of scenario is already commonplace in hearings, especially on the most controversial issues. Take for example the hearings on the NBN-ZTE deal and the "Alabang Boys" bribery scandal. In the NBN-ZTE hearings, in several instances, when star witness Rodolfo "Jun" Lozada was asked, he would answer with funny, quite-amusing statements. Instead of reminding him to answer properly, everybody would fall for his jokes and laugh out loud. The same thing happened with Maj. Ferdinand Marcelino's "musical" (uniformed in the "Alabang Boys" hearing. Those who were in charge of the congressional investigation should not be branches to sing and allowed themselves to be carried away.

To be frank, this could be one of the many reasons why these cases haven't been resolved or take too long to resolve.

Hearings are held not for the purpose of entertaining, if our legislators want entertainment, they should just go home and watch TV. I suggest that for our public officials to do their job well, our legislators pass a law prohibiting anyone from laughing during formal sessions like the time Dan ate bring held at the Batasang Pambansa and Supreme Court.

—RICLARDAN D. LUZON,
clan_pakundak@yahoo.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos in the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati; or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Trillanes not 'the biggest spending' senator

I REFER WITH REFERENCE TO HELINDA GUTIERREZ-CASTAÑEDA'S column titled "Senate resolution circumvents Court ruling," (Inquirer, 1/26/09).

Gutierrez-Castañeda, Antonio F. Trillanes IV purportedly for being "the biggest spending legislator ever in the Senate" and cited that a resolution filed by 14 senators seeking to allow Senator Trillanes to participate in Senate sessions, through electronic facilities, would entail extensive cost outlays.

Gutierrez's claims are simply false and baseless.

Records of the Commission on Audit clearly show that there are other senators who actually served only for six months in 2007 but who were reportedly have increased bigger expenses than Senator Trillanes did. In fact, the records reveal that Senators Jinn Ebdane and Lei Ejercito spent over P8.9 million and P8.4 million, respectively, as against Senator Trillanes' P8.1 million.

This clearly debunks Gutierrez's allegation that Senator Trillanes is the biggest spender in the Senate ever.

If we take into account the manner he used the funds, as well as his performance as a legislator, it would be difficult to deny that Senator Trillanes prudently made use of the resources entrusted to his office. In fact, the records of the Bills and Index Section of the Senate show that he is the second most productive member of the current Senate, having authored a total of 103 bills and 38 resolutions as of Dec. 31, 2008.

Finally, contrary to Gutierrez's principal assumption, the senate has not ruled that Senator Trillanes is not allowed to perform his duties as a senator. Allow us to quote from the resolution of Judge Oscar Pimentel:

"At present, the Court is not prohibiting accused Senator Trillanes from discharging his duties and responsibilities as a senator of the Republic. What the Court is not permitting is for the accused to leave his detention cell to attend sessions at the Senate ... The accused may perform his duties as senator of the Republic subject to limitations of being a detention prisoner."

The writ affirmed by the Supreme Court in its own decision which recognized that Senator Trillanes can perform his duties even while under detention: "These inherent limitations, however, must be taken into account only to the extent that confinement restrains the power or the freedom of an accused physically necessary."

The Court recognized that the accused could somehow accomplish legislative results."

Hence, there is simply no truth to the claim of Gutierrez that the resolution of the senators circumvents the ruling of the courts.

—JEFTA GLEN B. BAHALA,
chief of staff,
Office of Sen. Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV,
Senate, Pasay City

Robredo a natural-born Filipino, say lawyers

WE WRITE IN BEHALF OF OUR CLIENT, MAYor Jesse Robredo of Naga City, the 2008 Nissan Magsaysay Awardee for Government Service, to clarify his citizenship. In his Jan. 23 column, which was titled "Ifrikan, Robredo can't run for Senate in 2010," Ted Cruz made mention of lawyer Rosanda Mendiola's claim that Mayor Robredo can't run for the Senate in 2010 because the latter is a naturalized Filipino.

With all due respect, Robredo is a natural-born Filipino. He was born on May 27, 1958, by virtue of Article IV, Sec. 1(1) of the 1935 Constitution, which was then in effect. Robredo obtained his Filipino citizenship at birth from his father, Jose Robredo, a Filipino citizen. This fact is reflected in Robredo's birth certificate which, by law, is prima facie evidence of the facts stated therein. Since Robredo is a Filipino citizen at birth and did not have to perform any act to acquire or perfect his Philippine citizenship, he is therefore a natural-born Filipino as defined under Article IV, Sec. 2 of the 1987 Constitution. And since Robredo is a natural-born Filipino, he is eventually eligible to run for the Senate in 2010.

—JOSE AMEURO I. CADIZ
and BARBARA C. TABUSTONG,
Cadiz & Echanveria Law Offices,
Suite 2003, 20/F The Summit Global Corporate Tower,
3 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

OWWA head did not call Obama 'savior of OFWs'

I REFER TO THE INQUIRER HEADLINE "Ex-ores Obama as savior of OFWs," (Inquirer, 1/26/09).

Readers may denounce the punchy headline of the story. However, for those who conducted that interview in US President-Elect Obama as "the savior of OFWs," or faulted me for hoping that President Obama would create jobs for Filipinos, I would like to clarify that:

1. I did not refer to President Obama as "savior of OFWs" during the interview in Baguio City, the word "savior" was never mentioned.

2. I did not hint or imply that President Obama would adopt new policies to create jobs for Filipinos.

When I was asked by the Inquirer reporter, "What do you think will be the impact of President Obama's policies on the migration of Filipinos to the US," I expressed the hope that the new president's policies would not affect the migration of our migrant workers, particularly those in the health care sector. I explained this in the context of Filipinos being in continuing demand because of their skills which are recognized by US employers. I also expressed the hope that since the population of the United States is aging, the upper tiers in the our health workers would not be affected because American would still need the services of foreign health care workers, including Filipinos.

—CARMELITA N. BORDON,
administrator,
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration,
10 Ermita cor. St., Pasay City

All the points that Administrator Bordon outlined in her letter came out during the press conference and a separate interview I did. I accurately reported her statements. My copy did not use the word "savior." It was the news desk's decision to draw out the headline from the content of her statements.

—DIOSDADO CALEDA,
correspondent, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Ombudsman doing its best to stamp out graft

THIS LOG REFERENCE TO THE NEWS ITEM titled "Ombudsman filed only one case this month," which was reported by Edson Tandoc Jr. (Inquirer, 1/28/09) We would like to clarify that the month of January is transition period to the Office of the Ombudsman.

The incumbent guides of the Ombudsman in assessing our performance in the previous year. This information is even a need to set policy directions for the current year.

The statistics should not be used as an indicator of our performance in filing complaints before the Sandiganbayan, last year, our office filed a total of 145 cases before the anti-graft court. It secured a conviction in 406 cases for a 73.42 percent conviction rate.

It is just the start of the year. Therefore, it is too early to tell what our performance will be like this year.

Rest assured though that the Office of the Ombudsman under the leadership of Ombudsman Ma. Merceditas N. Gutierrez is doing its job as the country's lead agency in stamping out corruption in the country.

—JOSE T. BUJEDO JR.,
assistant ombudsman,
Office of the Ombudsman,
Diliman, Quezon City

Across the NATION

Farmers score 'defective' seeds of hybrid rice

By Amadeo Vargas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CABANATUAN CITY—SEVERAL FARMERS in Nueva Ecija are demanding reimbursement and damages from the company that sold them hybrid rice seeds that were defective and failed to grow properly.

Mario Imperio of the farmers' group Bumalikan said many farmers in his village in Dalaldal town feared that they would not recover their expenses due to the stunted growth of their rice plants.

"They were expecting that their harvest would be very late because of the poor growth and development of their rice plants," Imperio said.

He said the farmers were asking the Department of Agriculture to require the M. Agritech Corp., the firm that sold the seeds, to reimburse them.

They were also urging the DA to penalize the firm for supposedly shortchanging the government and the farmers in their agreement to supply good quality seeds to boost rice production under the Glorietawang Masaganang Ani (GMA) program.

Imperio said the government paid P1,500 per bag of 20 kg seeds as subsidy. The farmers paid P1,500 for the seeds they acquired through their municipal agricultural offices.

But Benedicto Ramos, provincial agriculturist of Nueva Ecija, said the farmers' demand was unjustified and called it a "misplaced outcry."

"There are no solid bases to say that the farmers who planted the SL-8 (hybrid rice) variety already suffered huge losses. In our monitoring, not any farm was found where all the plants flowered and produced grains prematurely," he said.

"The situation in Nueva Ecija regarding the SL-8 rice plants was overblown," he said. "The reports of the three teams monitoring the situation in the field showed that only 2 to 3 percent of the plants flowered and bore fruits prematurely."

Santos said the farmers panicked when they saw some of their plants producing grains even though they were very young and they told other farmers about it.

"We'd decided that their plants were out of date and bore fruits prematurely," Santos said.

He said some of the farmers, who saw some of their plants were flowering prematurely, destroyed their plants and planted another variety of rice.

Dr. Josef Montaplo, SL Agritech vice president, said their findings, as validated by the monitoring team, showed that a small percentage of "off-type" seeds caused the problem.

"These off-types cannot be avoided. They mixed with the hybrids during production and post production," Montaplo said.

He said the production of hybrid rice seeds involved the crossing of three different parent plants.

Like in other seed production activities, a 100-percent genetic purity of the seeds is almost impossible to obtain, he said.

FARMER Wenna Valentin, 54, of Barangay Tondol, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija hosts a hybrid rice plant which flowered and produced relatively fewer grains compared to last year's plants.

Cavite couple survives firecracker factory blast

By Florida Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

TANZA, Cavite—Lilibeth Dandilo, 36, stood joint silent eyesight as its wrapping the firecrackers inside the building like what she did that Thursday morning.

"I suddenly heard a loud explosion," she recalled.

Lilibeth rushed towards the exit when fire started engulfing the whole area.

"I could not see anything because of the thick smoke," she said.

On her way out, she said there were loud blasts, pieces of glass and iron sheets flying around, until a wooden door fell over, hitting her on the head and back.

She fell to the ground and became unconscious for a few seconds. "I thought it was going to end like this," she said.

When she regained consciousness, she called out to her husband.

'I thought of my children'

"Then I thought of my children. They are still young," she said. This prospect her to get up and leave outside the building.

Pedro's station was near the front of the factory compound.

"I just escape from inside (the building) because I took our advocate," he said. "It was just a matter of seconds. Had I stayed there longer, I could have died."

He was back to his station when Belen heard a blast immediately followed by a loud explosion. He ran towards the banana trees, at the corner of the compound, and jumped over the concrete fence to save himself.

"The fire was enormous. It was red and the smoke was black," he described.

Pedro said he remembered that his wife was inside so he went around the front entrance.

Luckily, another worker saw him and told him not to go back because Lilibeth was already out.

Pedro had no slight scratch from the accident. He ran side his wife to the hospital where she was being treated for concussion on the head and abrasions and burns on the arms and legs.

PYROTECHNICS surgeonsons Kiwi the explosion site of a fireworks factory in Tanza Mariano, Cavite. PHOTO

He learned that Lilibeth managed to escape the then burning building and was one of the first few survivors taken to the Emilio Aguinaldo Hospital in Barangay Luciano.

Until now, Lilibeth could not sit or lie because of the bruises on her back. The couple said they still could not see right since the incident. But they were thankful they survived.

When the explosion happened, their 8 and 12-year-old kids were in school, said Lilibeth.

The school principal announced the explosion to the family with news that no one survived the explosion.

Lilibeth said her children just sat in one corner, so shocked that a teacher had to cuddle her youngest son home.

"My son jumped to his feet and hugged me when he saw me," she said.

The couple left their home in Barangay Luciano for work—Pedro on his bike while Lilibeth on a tricycle—when their two-year-old daughter, 66, and other employees of firecracker

Laguerta's body has not been recovered. Angelo Francisco, whose body was identified, was Lilibeth's nephew.

The couple was earning a combined wage of P295 a day from firecracker.

The Dandilos said they had not met with the firecracker companies' yet but were hearing news about the owners going to visit and extend aid to them.

The couple said the factory was strictly implementing safety precautions in the workplace.

Safety

"Every week we are called to a meeting to remind us of the safety measures," Pedro said.

The compound was a no-smoking area.

"When you work on a table and there is powder left, you should not wipe it with plastic or your hand but with a damp cloth," Lilibeth said, citing a safety measure that was strictly practiced.

Supt. Efren Castro, Cavite deputy provincial director for administration said the incident remained under investigation by the Task Force Firecracker.

As of Saturday, police reported six confirmed dead: Cledilin Ian, Angelo Fernando, Marlon Rodrin, Desiderio Rimas, Christian Pangandilan and Gerardo Amparo Jr.

The search continued for the remains of Homer Lugtao, Helen Rodriguez, Sonny Dirollo, and Erickson Lopez.

The municipal government has also set up tents on the site to assist the survivors.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Loyola
LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED, INC.

SEC renews Loyola's license to sell for the year 2009

LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED, INC., a duly registered entity and the oldest pre-need company in continuous operation, assures its planholders, group business managers, business managers, corporate partners and the general public that it is and shall always remain steadfast in honoring its commitments and maturing obligations.

Loyola is a 100% Filipino-owned company which belongs to the top 1,000 corporations in the Philippines as published by the Business World. It has total assets of P5.55 billion and a gross revenue of P1.19 billion in 2007 with a net income of P362 million.

In its 40 years of operation, Loyola has kept its commitment to serve its planholders and has persevered to provide the best for its clients. Guided by its founder's motto, "Above All, Integrity," Loyola has soundly handled its trust fund, which is safely deposited with its trustee banks such as Banco De Oro, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., China Savings Bank and ING Bank.

For Loyola, the needs of its planholders are paramount, prompting the company to sustain the practice of releasing education plan benefits two months ahead of schedule.

In November 2008, after having complied with all the requirements prescribed by applicable rules and regulations, the dealer's license to sell Fixed Value Education Plans, Life Plans and Pension Plans of Loyola Plans Consolidated, Inc. has been renewed by the Securities and Exchange Commission for the year 2009.

Please direct any inquiries, comments or suggestions to Loyola's Regional Offices nearest you or to the Head Office at Loyola Building 849 A. Arnaiz Ave., Makati City. Telephone Nos. 892-6981 and 817-0000.

Member

Philippine Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies, Inc.

Owner, employees of posh Boracay resort face raps

By Hector P. Borgonia
Inquirer Visayas

KALIBO CITY—CRIMINAL charges have been filed against the owner and employees of a posh resort on Boracay Island over a property dispute on the island resort.

In a complaint filed before the Aklan Provincial Prosecutor Office on Jan. 21, Fridays Boracay owner Jose Bonifacio and 30 security guards and officials alleged provincial of the island were accused of frustrated murder.

The complaint, filed by lawyers of Ong White Beach Resort, was prompted by the armed confrontation between the security guards of the two neighboring resorts on Jan. 17.

The guards of Fridays Boracay allegedly destroyed the perimeter fence, where the Ong White Beach Resort is being constructed, and attempted to enter the area in Barangay Balabag at the northern end of the 1,032-hectare island.

A brief firefight ensued between the guards of the two properties. A worker of Fridays Boracay identified as John Fernando, was injured in the knee.

Lawyer Norman Tenny, one of the legal counsels of Ong White Beach, said in a recent telephone interview that one of their guards fired a warning shot after the resort's wooden fence was destroyed.

But the guards of Fridays allegedly fired back towards the Ong White Beach guards.

The complaint was supported by an affidavit of John Magbanua Jr., chief of security of the Ong White Beach property.

Magbanua said in his affidavit that he fired at the security personnel of Fridays Boracay in self-defense because they were allegedly firing upon the property of Ong White Beach.

Tenny said Fridays Boracay was claiming ownership of a 700-square-meter area that was part of the 1.5-ha property by Ong White Beach.

The personnel managers of Fridays Boracay failed to respond to an e-mailed request for an interview and repeated requests to remain calls of the Inquirer.

DAR legal officer slain in Negros Occidental

By Alex Pal
Inquirer Visayas

BANGUETE CITY—MOTORCYCLE-RIDING gunmen shot and killed the legal officer of the Department of Agrarian Reform in Negros Oriental on Friday night in Sibulan town, some three kilometers north of this city.

The police identified the victim as lawyer Eleazar Cangreng, 49, who was riding his motorcycle on his way home at about 8:30 p.m. when the suspects ambushed him along the national highway in Barangay Agan-an.

Sibulan police chief Insp. Ponde Hizon III, 39, said the two female-wearing suspects had been trailing the victim from Dumaguete City on another motorcycle and then shot him upon reaching the said place. The suspects then fled northward.

Cangreng suffered multiple bullet wounds on his back and his motorcycle skidded and crashed on the right side of the road. Bystanders rescued Cangreng from under his motorcycle and rushed him to the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Police quoted Dr. Ifeah Anthony Amistoso, attending physician, as stating that the possible cause of death is multiple organ damage secondary to multiple gunshot wounds.

Sibulan municipal health officer Meldida Pupos also conducted a post-mortem examination on the victim at the Elizita Funeral Chapel and found 11 gunshot wounds at the back of Cangreng's body with four exit wounds in front.

Cangreng had recently announced after he was sidelined four years ago, his last a 15-year-old son, his second wife. Medolly had left for Tagbilaran, Bohol earlier that day.

Sibulan police kept Cangreng's motorcycle as evidence. Still hanging by the handle bar of the slain lawyer's motorcycle were a plastic bag with bread and one cake mix as they have a last food store.

Meanwhile said they have yet to establish a motive for the killing.

He noted that Cangreng had been handling a "sensitive" land case in Bayawan City.

Baguio flower festival 2009 opens

BAGUIO CITY—TRAFFIC WAS stalled at the summer capital on Sunday. But residents were overhanging because downtown Session Road was packed with cultural children in costumes and floats for the opening parade of the 14th Panagbenga (Baguio Flower Festival), a month-long activity.

The street parade has been scheduled on Feb. 28, while the float parade will be on March 1.

Sibling songs and performances around the color-coded streets by over 1,000 schoolchildren who represented 17 public and private elementary schools in the city.

Pupils from the Gotta Asana Elementary School showed up wearing bright butterfly wings with their parent Hearts. Another batch of the dean showed while wearing large petals around their necks.

Many of the participating school children were costumes that used recycled materials like seeds and discarded snack bags and sardine cans.

Teachers who accompanied the children said recycling is a common school theme in Baguio classrooms.

Senior Supt. Wilfredo Fianza, city police director and chief of the festival's peace and order committee, said the launching parade would not seem to affect shopping schemes that were imposed by the Baguio police last week.

Traffic jams plagued the city during the Christmas and New Year holidays, which was the start of Baguio's peak tourist season.

Fianza said about 5,000 traffic aides and security personnel up to watch the inaugural parade on Sunday.

The only glitch in the festivities occurred at noon. Some of the participating children fled when a dog flew from the Philippine Normal Police Mascot the mob and headed across streets at Burnham Park's Football grounds.

Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, in a speech, told wanting up tourist and his said covering an identity for the city were reason for sustaining the flower festival.

But he said another big is "culture of eating" must be the fundamental reason for holding a festival for Baguio.

Panagbay leaders, civic groups and vendors spent Saturday night and Sunday dawn cleaning up the streets to prepare for the annual event.

The phrase "culture of eating," which Domogan cited, is the theme of Baguio's commercial celebration that began on Jan. 1.

On Sunday, the fair is in operation also opened the "Market Encounter," an annual bazaar, at the Burnham Park's skating rink.

A flower parade at Burnham Lake is scheduled on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day.

At least two street parties have been scheduled this month. Mansion Street near the public market would be closed from Feb. 26 to 28 for a series of concerts called "Mansion Nights."

The festival will end in the first week of March, when the city closes downtown Session Road for a weeklong historic and tradition.

Vincent Cabreza, Elmer Arriates Dacalpo, DY Espiritu, Jacquelyn Bonifacio and Bjoern Gorgonio, Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO sunset: 100 years old this year as its residents lost more efforts to revitalizing this year's annual Baguio Flower festival. Over a thousand schoolchildren opened the festival yesterday with a street dancing parade.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ PALAWAN

Spain to fund project

THE SPANISH government will extend a grant to fund a coastal resource management project in Tubbataha, southern Palawan, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

BFAR Director Malcolm Sarmiento said the project will include assessments of reef and marine conditions, trainings on enforcement of environmental laws and development of alternative livelihood projects.

Sabagan Andy, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ DAVAO CITY

'Lumad' kids get books

SCHOOL children in Southern Mindanao's indigenous communities recently received 13,000 books from the Ayala Foundation which were donated by Children International Philippines.

Norma Gatoc, director of the Institute of Indigenous Peoples Education, said the books were on the subjects of Mathematics, Algebra, Biology and Geometry, among others.

Rubilene P. Jose, Inquirer Mindanao

■ JOLO, SULU

2 dead in bomb blast

TWO PERSONS were killed while five others were wounded in a homemade bomb explosion in the fishing village of Bangkaya Pantao town Sunday morning.

Sulu police chief Senior Supt. Julasirin Nasiin said the bomb was detonated by illegal fishing.

He identified those killed only as Aziz and Abdul, both residents of Bangkaya. Both died. The wounded were brought to the Sulu Provincial Hospital.

Ed Saludo, Inquirer Mindanao

■ BASILAN

Boy kidnapped

A 12-YEAR-OLD boy named Gondar Cinda was kidnapped in Barangay Pamucan in Lamitan City Sunday afternoon.

Lamitan City police chief Senior Insp. Rolando Bacoto told the Inquirer that the boy was forcibly taken by two unidentified men riding in tandem on a motorbike along the highway in Barangay Pamucan.

Basilan Vice Gov. Al Rasheed Sakaluhal said the boy just came out from a computer shop playing video games when he was dragged by unidentified armed men.

The motorbike was reportedly recovered abandoned at Mahad Elementary School at Barangay Sangal.

John E. Alcos, Inquirer Mindanao

■ BATANGAS

LTO 'fixer' caught

POLICE arrested an alleged fixer at the Land Transportation Office during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Mandaris, Lipa City on Monday afternoon.

Joel Silva, 34, was caught with a plastic packet with shabu after receiving marked money worth P400 from undercover cops around 3 p.m., said Lipa police chief Supt. Francisco Rodriguez.

Silva was detained at the Lipa police station and will face charges for violations of Republic Act No. 9165 or Possession of Illegal Drugs Act.

Marvel Cris Lacuba, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ BALAGAN

2 thieves slain

TWO SUSPECTED robbers in thieves were killed in a shootout with policemen in Barangay Bulihan on Tuesday afternoon.

City police chief Supt. Reinna Librazan said policemen pursued the suspects after they reportedly robbed a gasoline station in Barangay Bulihan at 2:30 p.m.

She said the suspects, who were armed with .38 cal. revolvers and knives, engaged policemen in a gunfight at a restaurant near the Tamblot and Sandy Ramp restaurants in Barangay Bulihan at 2:30 p.m.

She said the slain suspects, who have yet to be identified, were taken to the Blue Cross Memorial Homes in the city.

Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon

■ CAYABATO CITY

G. Hugad: 70

THE EDITOR-in-chief of Mindanao's oldest weekly newspaper, The Mindanao Cross, died on Jan. 31, three days after he suffered a hypertensive stroke. He was 70.

Gerliemo "Boy" Hugad died at 3 a.m. on Saturday at the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center.

Hugad, who would be buried at the Marines Hills Memorial Park in Sta. Rita Grande, Maguindanao, is survived by his two daughters, Maggie and Princess.

Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

It's a FARE deal!

Cebu Pacific continues to offer the lowest international fares.

PROMO FARE SEAT SALE

₱1,999 Manila to Osaka

Sale Period: Jan. 23 to Feb. 13, 2009 – Travel Period: Feb. 1 to Apr. 30, 2009

GO LITE FARE INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS

₱299 Manila to Ho Chi Minh, Kota Kinabalu or Macau
Clark to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Macau or Singapore

₱799 Manila to Bangkok, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kaohsiung, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore or Taipei
Cebu to Hong Kong or Singapore
Davao to Hong Kong or Singapore

₱1,799 Manila to Shanghai

Go Lite Fares are available upon booking for guests traveling without check-in baggage. Add ₱1,200 to fare if traveling with check-in baggage.

International fares are exclusive of fuel and insurance surcharges, and other applicable government taxes.
Call (63) 70-26-888 in Manila, (032) 230-38-88 in Cebu or visit the travel agent near you.

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

ST. IGNATIUS HEALTH SCIENCE COLLEGE & University of Loyola at CNMI

Quezon City, Philippines

Saipan, CNMI, U.S.A.

ST. IGNATIUS HEALTH SCIENCE COLLEGE

Be a U.S. Registered Nurse in 24 months!

Study 20 months in Quezon City, 4 months in Saipan. Be eligible for NCLEX in 24 months.

You will be a U.S. graduate with an Associate Science Degree in Nursing (ASDN).
In the United States, A.S.D.N. and B.S.N. have the same job description, entry level positions, salaries and benefits.

Our program is ideal for:

1.) B.S.N. graduates - 1 (one) semester in Saipan
Includes NCLEX Review
No TOEFEL
No clinical experience required

2.) 2nd Coursers - 12 to 16 months
High school graduates (20 months in Manila, 4 months in Saipan)

Study Now Pay Later Plan Available!

TOP ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: English professor Dr. E. Roland Brown, Dean of Nursing Karen Buenaventura, Saipan Mayor Juan H. Tudela, Senate Pres. Pete Reyes, CNMI Governor Benigno R. Fitial, UOL-CEO Dr. Johnny Y. Fong, M.D., CNMI Soc. of Health Joseph Kevin Villagomez,a Director of Hospitals Dr. Edgardo Salud, Director of Placement Dr. Efren Palabyab and Math professor Perry Connor.

FRONT ROW: UOL graduates 1st batch of nurses Francis Jason Dimapilis, Arnold Laus, Ariel Jerome Laus, Nerissa Inciong, Rubina Francia, Marjorie Celebrado, Vanessa Tebra, Jean Isidro, Philip Lawrence Salud, Robert Urgoe and John Lawrence Peligro. UOL graduates are now eligible to take the NCLEX-RN as determined by the Board of Nursing of the U.S. territory of Northern Mariana Islands.

Saipan Board of Nursing affirms UOL program with release of NCLEX eligibility for graduates.

Transferees from other schools are welcome. Most subjects taken will be given credit.

University of Loyola at CNMI graduates are eligible to work in Saipan immediately after NCLEX. Two years experience not required.

ST. IGNATIUS HEALTH SCIENCE COLLEGE
Tarlac City
SOON TO OPEN!

For more information, contact:

St. Ignatius Health Science College
2/F Prosperity West Center, 92A West Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines
Telephone: (632) 373-6757 / (632) 373-6623 • Fax: (632) 375-8145
Email: st.ignatius.college@gmail.com
Website: www.stignatiuscollege.com

University of Loyola at CNMI
Website: www.uolcnmi.com

If you are an Educator or a Community Leader who wants to start a similar school and bring this opportunity to your locality, and make a reservation for the orientation program please call us at (832) 373-6623 or email us at drjohnnyfong@uolcnmi.com.

Students who wish to enroll, please call SIHSC or visit our website.

Mt. Banahaw off-limits for another 3 years

Villagers baffled by soil drop

GUMAC, SORSOGON—SINCE November last year, soil has ominously eroded in upland Sitio Tigbiw on Friday in Barangay Tigbiw in Gubat town on the shoulders of Bulusan Volcano, 614 kilometers south of Manila.

The progressing sinister earth drop has baffled villagers as it has brought down an entire plateau to form a huge pit about 500 meters wide and 24 meters deep.

Without experts to explain the phenomenon, the villagers call it "bahó" (hole). Old Melchorides Arey ventured a "pwersensiyo" (falls healer) from neighboring Casiguran town to cast a spell to stop the erosion.

Farmer Danilo Olalia, 50, recalled that the land fell in the early a small hole near the edge of the plateau at a river boundary after August's phone "burning" struck in December 2008. The gap has so widened that the surrounding area collapsed along with about 30 coconut and hardwood trees.

He said the continuing erosion was triggered by rain three months ago.

On the edge of the plateau is an opening where soil and debris of trees and rocks fall down the river. The dump covers a field of some two hectares.

A house once built for from the village is now on the direct path of the charged course of the river.

Olalia says some "unseen creatures" may be responsible for the phenomenon. He recalled that several months ago, he was planning to put up a house in the middle of the "bonita" (plain), which is now the deep hole, but he abandoned the idea after his dog refused to sleep there.

He cautioned passengers from throwing anything also in the hole lest they displeased the unseen beings inhabiting the place. It

A CIRCULAR erosion rim named in November has your one covers almost a hectare of land in Sitio Tigbiw on Gubat, Sorsogon.

reveiled that several months ago, he was planning to put up a house in the middle of the "bonita" (plain), which is now the deep hole, but he abandoned the idea after his dog refused to sleep there.

He cautioned passengers from throwing anything also in the hole lest they displeased the unseen beings inhabiting the place. It ventured that the creatures have not been satisfied with the rare white chickens that the "pwersensiyo" offered in a ritual of appeasement, he said.

The villagers were advised to burn candles at dusk at the rim of the deep hole, he added.

Alexander Danolo said he had been told by the "pwersensiyo" that a fairy prince was building a palace in the area as big as the hole.

"The fairy prince demands a high sacrificial offering of three human lives," he claimed.

The deep pit is 11 km from Bulan-Tudela-Irosin road in Sitio Tigbiw. Joann Rosales-Dee Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Mt. Banahaw off-limits for another 3 years

LUCENA CITY—WITH THE GOVERNment's five-year closure of Mt. Banahaw about to end on March 9, the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) on Thursday decided to seal off the mountain for three more years to execute its rehabilitation.

"It's now official, Mount Banahaw will still be off-limits for the next three years. After that, the PAMB will again discuss the issue to decide its next course of action," Sally Dargan, Department of Environment and Natural Resources park superintendent for Mt. Banahaw, told the Inquirer Friday.

She said the decision was approved by PAMB members from Quezon and Laguna during their first regular meeting held at Southern Luzon Polytechnic University in Lucban, Quezon.

The PAMB is a multisectoral body tasked by the government with monitoring watersheds and protected areas.

Dargan said the board had yet to finish its overall assessment on the impact of the five-year closure.

"But undeniably, the return of Banahaw wildlife fauna and flora species in the areas of Banahaw and Cristobal was the result of the closure. And we all want to sustain its phenomenal resurrection," she said.

Dargan also noted the return of mushrooming species in several watersheds and the re-growth of thick vegetation.

Banahaw, considered a spiritual mountain by many believers, straddles Quezon and Laguna.

It was declared a protected sanctuary in June 2003.

In the summer of 2004, the PAMB closed it with the aim of letting forests, several trails leading to the mountain's Banahaw in turn a free, your rehabilitation program that aimed to reconnect natural resources.

Aside from birds and bats forming the left scars on the mountain's surface, modern pilgrims and urban-based nature campers had littered the place with trash. Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

RESULTS OF JANUARY 30 DRAW

PREMYO SA RES'BO

₱1,000,000!

WINNING RAFFLE NUMBER

000142709242

₱25,000!

WINNING RAFFLE NUMBERS

000142630815

000142661266

NEXT DRAW FEBRUARY 13, 2009

QUALIFIED RECEIPTS NOV 1, 2008 onwards

LALONG LUPAGAK ANG PUMUNO NG RESIBO PA

SA PREMYO SA RESIBO

Mas maraming premyo, mas maraming nanunalo!

Araw-araw na 'to! Bayo sali na tayong lahat.

TO JOIN, TEXT:

PSR <space> TIN of Receipt* Receipt Number* Receipt Amount

EX. PSR 100131323000 523100 100

PCSO Raffle Entry

Available in Globe, Smart, Talk 'n Text, TM and Sun Cellular subscribers.

STOP TAX EVASION ASK FOR RECEIPT

A project of the Presented by philippine charity sweepstakes office

San Carlos wins anew in Galing Pook

By Carla P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—SAN CARLOS CITY IN Negros Occidental was declared again one of the winners of the Galing Pook's Ten from local governance programs in 2008.

The Galing Pook recognizes local governments with innovative programs that have gained measurable, positive results, empowered their people, and enhanced service delivery. Galing Pook executive director Eddie Dawaan said on Tuesday.

The other winners included Albay, the Mabih Valley Landscape Development Alliance (MALDA) in Bohol, Bukidnon and South Cotabato, Barangay Isidro in Iloilo, Zamboanga, Cordillera, Mia Reina City, Batangas, Quezon City, San Fernando City in Pampanga and Tagaytay City, Dawaan said.

He said Galing Pook has cited San Carlos City for establishing an independent development organization, the San Carlos Development Board Inc. (SCDB) to manage and coordinate the development initiatives of the city.

The SCDB is the only private organization in the country that coordinates a local development initiative, he said. With a single body overseeing all the different initiatives, redundancies in development efforts could be avoided or reduced, he added.

The board is a nonprofit organization created to oversee implementation of the 20-year Master Development Plan, the city's blueprint to transform a traditional and livestock sugar-based economy to a more ecologically oriented commerce and industry.

The other Galing Pook awards were by San Carlos were for its "Save Para sa Mahimo" in 1996, Road for Progress in 1997, "Pinangkabuhay sa Basud Pamunoan" in 2000, and Water Levy for Watershed Development in 1997.

San Carlos Mayor Eugenio Jose Lacson said the awarding ritus would be held in Malacañang on July 11.

Planned bioethanol plant may threaten water supply

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—THE CONCERNED local bioethanol plant is to be built within the watershed area here has drawn fish from residents and environmentalists for its potential threat to the city's main water supply source, as well as destruction to a world famous tourist attraction.

Rep. Rufus Rodriguez has asked Cagayan to investigate the construction of the plant. Specifically, he wanted to know how it was able to secure permission from the city government to build the plant adjacent to the Cagayan River.

"Why here, why not somewhere else like the Misamis Industrial estate which was made purposely for industries?" asked lawyer Beverly Lopez of Barangay Bayanga, a member of the Kagayan Watershed Alliance (Kawa).

The proposed bioethanol plant is a P2.1-billion project of the Davao-based Absolute and Sons Consolidated Resources (Absons) to be built within a 16-hectare property in Barangays Macabalan and Bayanga. It expects to produce 35 million liters of bioethanol every year.

Rodriguez filed House Resolution No. 1022 urging the committee on ecology to investigate the project.

Food or fuel

According to him, the city council passed an ordinance reclassifying the land use in Barangay and Macabalan from agroforestry to agro-industrial to pave the way for the plant's construction.

"This is another issue of 'food or fuel.' We cannot sacrifice the health and welfare of our people so I am urging the Congress to investigate so that we can take steps to prevent the construction of the plant," he said in a press conference on Saturday.

Absons has defended the project as having complied with the Biofuels Act and all licensing requirements.

But Boyo described the project as a curse of "good riches, bad investors."

"It is good to seek alternative sources of energy or fuel to reduce our dependency on imported petroleum, but why locate it within a watershed?" she asked.

Boyo also contended Absons' statement that the plant would emit only clean effluents. "They haven't presented any objective and independent technical study that will assure us that the effluents from the plant will be pollution-free," she said.

Absons will use coal to fuel its boiler for cassava processing, its basic ingredient in biofuel production.

In his resolution, Rodriguez agreed with environmentalists when they warned that possible a byproduct of bioethanol could accidentally spill into the river and kill the city's only source of life and water. It could also lead to toxins accumulating in millions of pesos which was spent by the city government to promote white river rafting as a tourism attraction.

Danger to endemic species

Water from Mudpit River, a major tributary of the Cagayan River, will be used by the bioethanol plant and such chemically treated water

Boyo said the plant would not only affect 5,000 households dependent on the river for their daily water needs, but also endanger endemic species thriving in the river.

The Bayanga Hanging Bridge, a watershed still hosts several endangered species like the monkey, the freshwater hawk and Philippine eagle and the fresh water sea dogs fish, said a leader by the alliance Kawa.

In a public consultation held on Wednesday, Absons consultant George Militante said the company was still awaiting the approval of the environmental compliance certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources before they could begin construction. Ma. Cecilia L. Rodriguez, Inquirer Mindanao

DOH alert: Don't eat pork with salmonella

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF Health in Eastern Visayas has asked consumers not to eat pork infected with the salmonella bacteria.

Boyd Cerro, a regional sanitized nurse, said the advisory was issued following reports that salmonella had infected hundreds of hogs in one town in Samar alone.

Eating a pig infected with *Salmonella choleraesuis* can endanger one's health, Cerro said.

He said the bacteria could be transferred to humans and cause diarrhea.

The *Salmonella* bacteria are present in the blood of the infected animal. For this reason, we at the Department of Health strongly advise against its consumption," Cerro said.

The regional health office reported that salmonella had infected about 750 pigs in villages of Sta. Rita town in Samar. Eighty-nine of the hogs were confirmed to have died.

The DOH said the emergence of the bacteria could have been caused by poor sanitation, contaminated feeds, "improper" care of the animals, and even bad weather.

Campaign

Cerro said the name of the sick pigs could also contaminate water sources, considering that some of the animals were eating.

"That is why we urged the Department of Agriculture to intensify its campaign against the infected hogs, especially on its quarantine procedures," Cerro said.

Since the bacteria was detected in the region last December, the DOH has yet to know if any body had gotten sick from eating the infected pigs, Cerro said.

The National Meat Inspection Services, an attached agency of the DA, has also received reports that salmonella affected pigs in other towns, like in Bantayan, Daguitan, both in Leyte and even Tacloban City.

But those cases have yet to be confirmed, NMIS supervising officer Gino Bernie Mercantile said.

Mercantile said health inspectors in the region were ordered to report immediately any occurrence of the bacteria in their areas.

The NMIS also strictly prohibits clandestine slaughtering of hogs outside abattoirs, he said. "We have also put up some checkpoints, particularly in Sta. Rita, to control the movements of those animals," Mercantile added.

The agency recommended the isolation of pigs showing symptoms of the disease, such as loss of appetite, diarrhea and fever.

The 106th Anniversary of the Land Registration Authority

Growth, Maturity, and Advancement for the LRA

On the occasion of its 106th Anniversary, the Land Registration Authority (LRA) takes a great leap forward with a strong outlook for the future.

This year's anniversary revolves around the theme GMA for the LRA:
- Growth of a National Land Computer Network;
- Maturity of a New Bureaucracy; and
- Advancement of the Needs of the Public.

Indeed, the LRA remains involved in several projects of national importance. For instance, the LRA is the primary support agency in the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). As such, all Registries of Deeds throughout the country play a vital role in the registration of Emancipation Patents and Certificates of Land Ownership Award for free.

The LRA presently works through one hundred sixty-four (164) Registries of Deeds distributed throughout the country, all tasked to safeguard the integrity of untitled lands, chattel mortgages, and personal property. With the construction of additional registries coinciding with the refurbishment of existing facilities, it is the Agency's hope to deliver even better service to the transacting public.

Consistently ranked among the top revenue earners of the national government, the LRA marks yet another banner year in terms of revenue generation. As of the end of November 2008, the agency has earned over three billion pesos in registration fees, with the highest collections coming from Quezon City, Makati, and the province of Cavite. As such, the LRA retains its place as one of the top four government revenue earners.

Growth of a National Land Computer Network

In the coming years, the LRA hopes to improve its services further through the digitization of all records on file via the Land Titling Computerization Project (LTCP). A modernization project created under the Build-Own-Operate (BOO) scheme of the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law, the LTCP is geared towards greatly augmenting the efficiency of the LRA, allowing it to provide data and better services to the public.

Given the need for improved public service by way of computer technology, 2008 saw the preliminary implementation of the LTCP via three pilot Registries of Deeds: Quezon City, Paranaque, and Cebu. For these three target areas, all land titles and relevant documents have been scanned and encoded into a database specifically created to secure land titles from fraud and/or theft by unscrupulous individuals and organizations.

As part of the first phase of implementation, new offices have been constructed for the Registries of Deeds in Cebu and Quezon City, while extensive renovation was recently completed for the Paranaque Registry. Fifteen (15) Registries are expected to be constructed during the second phase of implementation and renovation will be done on the other forty-nine (49) sites. At present, sixty-four (64) Registries of Deeds are being prepared for the implementation of Phase II.

As of 30 June 2008, over a million titles and supporting documents have been scanned. It is envisioned that the land records of the country will truly be secure and more easily accessed upon the full implementation of the Project.

Newly inaugurated Regional Register of Deeds, Cebu City

Inauguration of Cebu City Registry of Deeds, Part of the Initial Phase of the LTCP Implementation

Maturity of a New Bureaucracy

With the implementation of the LTCP, it is expected that the integrity of the LRA will increase significantly with a concurrent decrease in corruption and fraudulent practices within the agency.

This drive towards a more service-oriented culture within the LRA was bolstered further by Task Force: Titulong Malinis. Known colloquially as the TFTM, the activities of the task force were done in collaboration with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG).

Based on its year-end report, the TFTM resolved a total of one hundred and twelve (112) cases for appropriate action, thirty-five (35) of which were turned over to the NBI and five to the OSG for further investigation and action.

With the digitization of other registries in the offing, it is expected that the reduced human intervention will lead to more streamlined processes resulting in better service and reduced fraud.

More order in service at the Registry of Deeds in Quezon City

Advancement of the Needs of the Public

In the years to come, the public can expect numerous improvements within the LRA, specifically:

- The implementation of a more secure Torrens Registration System;
- Cleaner, more orderly offices offering streamlined transactions;
- More personable public servants who will be able to meet the needs of the transacting public;
- Increased transactions and revenues that will significantly benefit the national economy; and
- Total satisfaction through effective and efficient public service.

With the advent of the LTCP and the implementation of other projects for the protection of land titles, it is expected that the LRA will better safeguard the public trust through the securing of all titles.

Transaction Windows at the Renovated Registry of Deeds in Paranaque

Growth. Maturity. Advancement. GMA for the LRA: taking the next step towards modernization.

New error-filled textbook bared

By Jaime Laude
Inquirer Visayas

Especially painful case for me, made so it was during the Christmas vacation when a member of my family had specifically requested me to abandon my advocacy altogether," Go says in a letter to the Inquirer on Jan. 9.

"In the end, I had to make a judgment call favoring the interest of the many over that of my own," he says.

Many of the new batch of public school textbooks in English Reading and Language shows that the situation held. In fact, documented to a point where a textbook, like the 2008 page "English for You and Me Grade-5, Quarter-Three-Book-Two-Second" has errors in almost every page.

"Are all the mistakes? Are we still touching? What will the poor students learn? The bad books keep growing in numbers. I hope it is not yet too late to correct the material before the Grade-5 students graduate in March," he says.

12-year crusade

Go's personal crusade began 12 years ago when a book agent came to Macleia School in the working-class neighborhood of Hawaiian, offering him an L-200 you'd be agreed to use the textbooks.

He was informed that licensing materials were being peddled like sardines and were filled with special effect. He was doubly incensed when he found out that they were also chock-full with errors.

This is bad from parents who had supply poor public in discovering the touch that their students were being fed to feed in public schools. But after a fleeting fuss and cry the outbursts soon cloven the dicta.

So it with Go. He promised his compatriots to keep talking to anyone and pulling out newspaper ads that had one line a million times.

Lost in translation

Foreign correspondents took in the writing for their newspapers in the United States, Europe and Asia about political violence in the Philippines got "lost in translation" and reporting in textbook the Philippine education system.

Then the quality of the country's education has deteriorated—a result of the first-hand Marcos dictatorship's emphasis on his personal morality and that of his friends—has been widely acknowledged, even by the foreign ambassadors.

This had been evident in the audio whelming results in recent profession ity examinations in Science, Math and English for Filipino students.

A number of reasons underlying the rot have been debated, including the quality of textbooks and learning materials, the poor government spending on education compared to Singapore's and Japan's, for example, and how inability to cope with a fast-growing and generally impoverished population.

President Macapagal-Arroyo—along with concerned sectors, business and civil society—has attempted to address the mind-boggling problems that have depleted the country's human capital and social mobility under a regime of lack of access to wealth and the balance of agrarian reform.

Multistage evaluation

The DepEd has purportedly put in place a multistage evaluation process for the new textbooks to make being updated with additions of prose results from the World Bank.

Final vetting is done by such elite schools as Ateneo de Manila University and University of the Philippines, according to the DepEd.

Nothing but happened—at least according to Go's evaluation of four textbooks in English used in public schools distributed this year that he said are filled with errors.

One of the authors he has counsel, Esperanza Gonzales, in a letter to the Inquirer, questions the credentials of what she describes as a "super-vision of an incompetent school ... who has not even made a name for himself in the book-writing industry."

What's good writing'

Says Go: "I'm merely showing what those most revered and highly respected writers really are. The first requisite of a good writer is that he must know how to write. And what is considered good writing? It is one that possesses the characteristics of the best models of its countries and teachings which are true, good and correct. If a writer does not have proficiency in English, he shouldn't be writing textbooks in the first. It is completely futile."

"While it is fun to say that anonymous DepEd evaluators should also be blamed, it cannot be denied that the original author have remonstrated by the authors themselves. Editors and reviewers are supposed to edit only minor errors, and not to correct and rewrite an entirely faulty book. The author who doesn't know how to write, the reviewer who doesn't know how to correct and the DepEd—those above the pack is equal measure."

Go had planned to free quietly and go into farming after the colossally time-pulling last year to shoot the messenger, thereby killing his message that deliver. His textbooks are one of the root causes of the decline in Philippine education.

He recalled: "I am very with his book-five readings."

Academicians evaluated, OKd book, says DepEd

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A PRIVATE PUBLISHED PUBLIC SCHOOL textbook said to be fraught with errors had passed a rigid vetting system by a panel of academicians, the Department of Education (DepED) official said.

"Our books go through four sets of evaluation. Our English textbooks also went through this process," Isidro Mercado Maricris Council Secretariat Director Socorro Bautista told the Inquirer.

Pilot said the books being questioned, the Grade-5 textbook "English for You and Me" written by Elsido A. Cada, also passed the final evaluation of an editorial board from Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU).

It was also evaluated and approved by academicians from prestigious universities for "accuracy of content" and "grammar."

The DepED writer to university professors and experts to serve as evaluators, they could nominate to evaluation.

The selected academicians get a small P6,500 "service fee" for evaluating a manuscript, according to Josie Sarmo, chief education program specialist.

Happy with results

"We are happy with the response of our universities. The positiveness they give us are really good," Sarmo said.

Aside from AdMU, Sarmo also named the University of the Philippines, De La Salle University, University of the Visayas, University of Asia and the Pacific, Polytechnic University of the Philippines and Philippine Normal University.

Just like other manuscripts submitted to the department and eventually selected as textbooks, Sarmo said the book questioned by critic Antonio Calleja for had passed the following stages of screening:

• Learning competencies. DepEd evaluators checked if the manuscript fits the needs of the basic curriculum.

• Content evaluation to ensure that the manuscript has "no conceptual, factual, pedagogical, computational, grammatical and other types of errors." In this stage, two professors were selected and trained to evaluate the manuscript independently.

• Technical evaluation of materials and appropriateness of presentation of lessons, language and visuals. Teachers from DepED were involved in this process.

• Ensuring manuscript is "grammatically correct and can be easily understood by the target readers." Language experts from universities were contracted for this stage.

Few revisions recommended

Under the current process, the evaluators rate a manuscript in each of the stages and the highest score got selected. The chosen manuscript, including the recommended revisions and corrections, is returned to the publisher, Pilot said.

"When we receive the completed, we ask our bureau to recommend to our editorial board," Pilot said. The board is usually a university which designates professors to look into the textbook. This time, the publisher pays the university for the evaluation.

Pilot said that for the latest batch of English textbooks, the DepEd "forged a memorandum of agreement with Ateneo De Manila University." She said that the editorial board that AdMU had formed for the Grade-5 textbook "English for You and Me" also recommended a few revisions to the publication.

"We do not stop in looking or ways to improve the process," Pilot said, adding that her office was "very open" to complaints against the quality of current textbooks.

Her office has not received any formal complaint or letter of error yet, however.

'Drowned in mystery' and other boo-boos

By Jaime Laude
Inquirer Visayas

Let there another's predator.

• Are we take care of the bird is here? Are like in a rehabilitation center?

• There pants didn't cut much because they are uneven.

• Comfortable means having the comfort.

• The cat's exhibitors make it difficult from other animals.

• I heart you so much. I even told you not to miss my exam.

• Propped: it stands and supported very well.

• Judiciously done with fragility.

• Propped: outdated.

• They were discussing what will happen if the nurse bounced back on the earth.

• Heroes helped to the forming of our nation.

Tsunago, Badjaos

• The Tsunago, who live in Ifalo, are a friendly people. The people here must are friendly, peaceful and hospitable. They are completely armed only when they spot weapons around their waists. They believe in black magic, sorcery, voodoo and love potions. The forest, their Bible, beliefs the setting of their most.

• The Badjaos are mostly found along the Gulot of Jolo, Sulu#, Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi islands in Mindanao. They are regarded as cultured because they are hardworking and peace-loving.

• People are active individuals. Sometimes, even while sleeping, they make actions through dreams. Cameras distinctive are taken from dreams of the camera man. Dreaming is a person's own act. Dreams may be a source of income, some dreams make the world go round, open the evildoer of life or unravel the problems of people.

• The nurse's plan said the character acting pressures are spontaneous in giving us a distinct TV program.

• Next week, he'll be out from the hospital. Bobby left happy with medicated feeling.

• The grass seems to crash at me. The house bees down their heads.

• The lady's residence added to the full measure of their first happiness.

• Do you feel like you're a newborn today? The results last some of age giving us time to be born.

• He's so shy's reserved about his/her future. He's so shy's not sure about the meaning of his/her life.

Life as a game

• Hold and behold the essence of bright days. Everybody want be ready to live every day. Everybody sees life as a game.

• Still, life is going on. You continue to breathe and sigh. But keep on working and living. You drink and sleep for days.

• In life will you have to pose the best. There are people who stare.

• Compose your own poems, participated after the flow of your life.

• Oh God, guide me to take side my eyes to live by your example.

• Some volunteers buried themselves debating thereby.

• Copy the sentences that deserve the events happened in the story.

• Their neighbors surround our land hear lucky their parents were.

Chief of the rails

• A horseman worked hard as the manager chief of the rails.

• My grandfather is tall he is known as and my mother got her shown perfect trainer from him.

• The people observed keenly the galvanizing show of the natural building in the bodies.

• There are animals that sacrifice their lives for people; being prone to the world or create color and nurture up to humankind. You can hear animals talk like, "Don't get me lies, please!" People cried out loud to stop hurting the animals.

• I became a debate regarding "Should people not natural diets?"

• Utility is the richest among the whole study grade—she's been staying since she's there.

• Mr. Soler are believed to be the genuine of the country. Then probably made from the most popular people country.

• They voted me think teacher as the most desirable.

• The authorities were intimately bonded with the coal threshold because after his/mother/sister project.

• Tomorrow (noun of night and morning, means of being/ignorance, being installed).

Warning to security

• The coming plague of Society was a warning to people's security.

• Mr. Hilod his coal because of headaches.

• Choose a partners as well as the kind of nurse you feel comfortable with to nurse to deprive with, and protect you are now drinking. Dancing in groups is a kind of bonding among freelancers.

• If you were to assess your family's income, how much do you think would your earth be?

• Did you explain the conflict in a very understandable way? Did you relate to the first person using point of view using the pronouns I and She?

• At my lips, swearing to Martin Heaven is far from my negative.

• A time-tested's piece of cloth saved.

• The jasmines used to clean the species of the water underneath the tree.

• There are times that there are invisible obstacles in the air.

Atmosphere is poor

• Pal is check before the contestant with details that tell the atmosphere in the person is really very shone.

• Invisible like bees for flies.

• What does "The gentle drop of rain on the ground" mean? Explain.

• Give importance of a person's right to his choice of a partner.

• Create an atmosphere of family solidarity to the readers.

• "He's not here?" Miss Rosella told at them. She told them to go out the classroom.

• He should be given total attention from everybody to make him feel important.

• What are benefits obtained by her for the sick ... still, still, still. What is the use of discussion if one engages in to supports — full of greed and the kind?

• The requirement to create the nest was fully used.

• Media people are afraid that information may be drained by the letter.

• How does light come or disrupt? Do we appreciate the coming of the dawn? Why?

• The world crumbles when poverty and hunger are rife for the people.

Child for once

• Join other children. You'll only be a child for once." At the end, he realized the joy of playing with his classmates.

• They cultivated the partial rules of the game in the community. They use the pistol seeds and the pot will follow.

• Using the Venn diagram, compare the character traits of Bobby with other children.

• Mess children, unite them! Make some magic for me! Abracadabra, make Blessed! Rich! Abracadabra! He ran in his style. "Looked here, Bobby," he said. His uncle looked like an invisible man.

• Some patients might their hands to signal that they had something.

• "Will you work abroad, Rizza?" asked Henry with her cuddenly swelling in his eyes. "Where are you going? Why did I feel lonely or sorry, Rizza?" Henry ran with his hands to his eyes.

• Mr. Reyes carried his suitcase to produce with his son who was holding onto his neck tightly.

• The teachers spoken to be patiently.

• "Okay, you could always to be alone, child," I said. I went to talk to us. You're like a mature person."

• Even the birds laughed at him.

DepEd library hubs serve far-flung schools

By Jaime Laude
Inquirer Visayas

A milestone in far-flung schools.

They generally offer store books, not textbooks. Private circles of the DepED continued use of so-called "dark books"—educational materials that through earth burned or grammatical errors—are rare in Tabuan-an City, Cebu# signed on this page.

The Library Hub project was inaugurated in 2003 by then Miguel Luz, then-education undersecretary for finance, who oversees the establishment of the first three hubs.

Thanks to full-stained about ten years ago in Tabuan-an City, Grade school pupils from around Santa Rita get to read stories ranging from Filipino folktales like Juan Tamad and Pilandokan, to novels exploring more contemporary themes like environmental protection and family relationships.

"We want to encourage our students to read," said public school teacher Estrom Infante, coordinator for the Tabuan-an hub, which serves more than 200 public elementary and HS high schools in the province.

The books reach young readers in phases as far as Guijo town, which is about two hours away by jeepney from the city, Infante said. The teachers usually rent jeepneys, sometimes shelling out their own money to borrow books in bulk.

But the more the excitement among the students whenever the kids are reminded on easier, Infante said.

Teachers usually take about a month making sure all students in their class have read the books, before returning the materials to the hub.

During that period, "we also hold Library Hub reading contests to further encourage our students to read the books," he added.

Target coverage

Around 70 hubs are currently in operation with another 40 to 45 are currently under construction, while 40 more are to be completed in different provinces within the next year, according to Education Undersecretary Teodoro Bengil Jr., who took over Luz's post in 2006.

The target is to build library hubs in all of the 184 school divisions supervised by the DepED nationwide, Bengil said. "We have reached at least half of our target in the first three years. Hopefully, we can expand the project thereafter," he added.

The hubs are set up near divisions offices so they can serve as many schools around them as possible. They have to be at the "center," so to speak, to make it easier for teachers to drop by at least once a month.

The books, bought by the DepED and specifically printed for the Library Hub program, mostly glossy, colorful pages. While containing humorous, the books are meant to be educational, with big enough to carry 200 to 300 copies of a particular title.

"These [include] very expensive books which our students generally could not afford," said Bengil. In addition to the DepEd-commissioned books, the hubs also receive boxes of a collection of 30,000 books worth P15 million.

Model hub in Marikina

The hub established in Marikina City may be considered a model for other DepEd hubs, according to Undersecretary Estrella Pilarca, a former elementary school principal.

Partially funded by the city government, the hub occupies a spacious room at the groundwood of the Marikina City Sports Park. The DepED supplied the books and provided a P1-million in shelving, furniture, while the local government shoulders the other costs.

City Hall also pays for the cost that deliver the books to the schools and back. This is particularly helpful to Fortune Elementary School, the campus furthest from the hub, which is a 30-minute jeepney ride just to get hold of some books.

The Marikina hub has about 8,000 titles as of last count, each available in 50 to 200 copies. Those include biographical books, children's books coming in more than P1,000.

Through the hub, for example, students of Gladiolus Science High School get their hands on hard-bound editions of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy according to library staff member Philbert Serrano.

"Those are usually difficult to unbound if they form the habit of reading books," Marikina Elementary School principal Sheila Zabella said when asked about the benefits of the hub.

The children have been enjoying the books so much, Bengil said, that some have impulsively ask their teachers about the "next delivery" even before they could finish reading the current book.

Challenges

Students are also allowed to bring the books home. Once in a while a copy would go missing. Pilarca said, but teachers would later find out that a student who apparently found the books so much fun that it was a treasure-sibling.

Today, the Library Hub project still faces two major challenges, according to Bengil.

First is the lack of personnel. Bengil said many hubs in remote areas still do not have their own full-time librarians and just rely on teachers who handle regular classes. Hence, those hubs are closed on weekdays.

Second, some hubs are not only poorly operational but also often relatively been idles.

But Bengil said the Library Hub program would undergo a major expansion this year, with DepED having P150 million worth of new reading materials. The new books are expected to be delivered within the first quarter of the year, he added.

The DepED is also working out on arrangement wherein the maintenance and operation of school libraries, instead of being dependent on the department's ratings and private donations.

Show 3 cops alive, military tells NPA

From page A1 ›

Philippines spokesperson Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres Jr. also reiterated the military's position on an exchange with "terrorists."

"The AFP's mandate is to neutralize them," he said.

Both military officials denied imposing food blockades and harassing civilians in Bicolgano.

"We shall never impose a food blockade in Eliad. Instead, we will continue to serve and protect the [residents] and rid it off terrorists such as the NPAs," Torres said.

The NPA, he pointed out, sets already "fooling the pressure" of the military and the police in the area so it was compelled to employ "recycled propaganda" against the military.

Col. Tirsino Kiron, commander of the 203rd Brigade, also said in a text message yesterday that the military wanted the issue of the officers without preconditions.

"We do not conduct food blockade but our relentless operations have the effect of disrupting their food supplies," Kiron added.

Quezon Bishop Emilio Marquez and Eliad Gov. Casimiro "Jun" Tuanes Jr. have declared their readiness to negotiate, but the police said he had yet to hear from the NPA.

The NPA has urged the families of the captive lawmen and volunteer negotiators to demand that the government stop its military operation and start negotiations. *With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon, and AFP*

Worried about future? Survivalists await worse

From page A1 ›

cans hunkering down for what they predict will be a nightmare of economic failure, mass starvation, pandemics and social chaos.

"The movement's definitely growing," Rawles, manager of the website survivalblog.com, told Agence France-Presse by telephone from what he described as a "heavily armed, totally self-sufficient" corner of the Rocky Mountains.

Survivalism has a long history in the United States. But when used to be the preserve of militia-inhabitants loners, soldiers and gun nuts has gone mainstream.

Government agencies are encouraging citizens to prepare evacuation plans and food supplies in case of natural disasters.

Firearms, gold pieces, and long-storage food are reportedly flying off the shelves, and the Internet is flooded with sites like survivalblog.com, where the like-minded exchange tips on everything from marksmanship to chemo-making.

Jump in readers

"We're seeing three times the number of readers we had just nine months ago," Rawles said.

"The mass section of the readership is changing too: before, most of my readership was conservative Christian. We're seeing a lot more left of center."

Experts say spades for this phenomenon include the 9/11 attacks of 2001, government incompetence during Hurricane "Katrina" in 2005, and wars in-

The 50th, he pointed out, sets already "fooling the pressure" of the military and the police in the area so it was compelled to employ "recycled propaganda" against the military.

Col. Tirsino Kiron, commander of the 203rd Brigade, also said in a text message yesterday that the military wanted the issue of the officers without preconditions.

"We do not conduct food blockade but our relentless operations have the effect of disrupting their food supplies," Kiron added.

Quezon Bishop Emilio Marquez and Eliad Gov. Casimiro "Jun" Tuanes Jr. have declared their readiness to negotiate, but the police said he had yet to hear from the NPA.

The NPA has urged the families of the captive lawmen and volunteer negotiators to demand that the government stop its military operation and start negotiations. *With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon, and AFP*

Worried about future? Survivalists await worse

From page A1 ›

cans hunkering down for what they predict will be a nightmare of economic failure, mass starvation, pandemics and social chaos.

"The movement's definitely growing," Rawles, manager of the website survivalblog.com, told Agence France-Presse by telephone from what he described as a "heavily armed, totally self-sufficient" corner of the Rocky Mountains.

Survivalism has a long history in the United States. But when used to be the preserve of militia-inhabitants loners, soldiers and gun nuts has gone mainstream.

Government agencies are encouraging citizens to prepare evacuation plans and food supplies in case of natural disasters.

Firearms, gold pieces, and long-storage food are reportedly flying off the shelves, and the Internet is flooded with sites like survivalblog.com, where the like-minded exchange tips on everything from marksmanship to chemo-making.

Jump in readers

"We're seeing three times the number of readers we had just nine months ago," Rawles said.

"The mass section of the readership is changing too: before, most of my readership was conservative Christian. We're seeing a lot more left of center."

Experts say spades for this phenomenon include the 9/11 attacks of 2001, government incompetence during Hurricane "Katrina" in 2005, and wars in-

The movement's, who claimed he has serious sympathy with the US military to bring said he was stocking "arms, ammo, food, livestock, equipment, etc.

"HITS could be a natural disaster, a terrorist attack, something rabbit's again would cause panic and rioting, lawlessness, and/or economic collapse, putting family at risk," he said.

Part of landscape

Those fears may seem over the top to some, but they are increasingly part of the social landscape.

Nielsen Geographic Channel runs a television series called "Wastewatch: Population Zero," examining what the world would be like without humans.

"Imagine if one minute from now, every single person on Earth disappeared," the show intones. "Everywhere we look, you do just that, annihilating New York and other landmarks as the cities of the mouse.

Publishers have also jumped in.

Among the many books on the subject is "Prepare, Survive and Prosper" by Baron Rigg, a former chief global strategist for Morgan Stanley. He offers countermeasures advise like setting aside money for medicine, seeds and canned food.

Websites sell vacuum-packed food, camping gear, medical kits and replacement guns.

Many also feature information dearly stated at beginners, based on survivor's manuals? "Stay away from the beach," survival-mentalmass.com helpfully advises.

Gov't encouragement

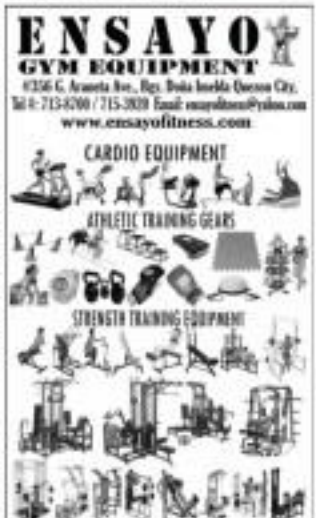
Big government bureaucracies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security want people to prepare for trouble, even if there is no official mention of HOWMA and SHTF.

"Practice earthquake and tornado drills at home, school and work," ready.gov says, also assuring that pets will not be allowed into public evacuation centers.

New York-based specialist Jason Edwards says the government's stand proves survivalists are right all along.

"People run away from it at first, saying it was alarmist and four-mongering. They didn't realize that the government is saying much the same thing," Edwards said. AFP

ENSAYO
GYM EQUIPMENT
#256 G. Araneta Ave., Brgy. Doña Imelda Quezon City.
Tel #: 713-8700 / 715-3939 Email: ensayofitness@yahoo.com
www.ensayofitness.com



Save capitalism from itself

From page A1 ›

capitalism's excessive greed which became the economic orthodoxy of our time."

He wrote for the Monthly magazine, due to be published this week, as the Davos conference attended by 2,400 world leaders in government and private business gathered while the world financial leaders responsible for the deepening financial crisis that started in September last year.

Rudd lumped US President Barack Obama in the category of social democrats, although the Obama administration does not come up close to the category of welfare state governments, including those in France, Germany, United Kingdom, Spain, Scandinavia countries, Canada and New Zealand.

"It fell to Franklin Delano Roosevelt to rebuild American capitalism after the Depression," Rudd wrote.

And it now falls to the Obama administration...and to those who will provide international support for his leadership—to support a global financial system that properly balances private innovation with public responsibility.

New regulatory regime

The crisis "reflects the greatest regulatory failure in modern history," as it spreads from financial markets to all realms of the economy and society, according to the Australian prime minister.

"It is a crisis which is simultaneously individual, national and global," Rudd wrote. "Social democratic governments across the world must rise to the further challenge of developing a practical policy response to the crisis that rebuilds shattered economic growth, while also establishing a new regulatory regime for the financial markets of the future."

Rudd said there was a need for a new era of financial regulation and governance conventions to avoid markets to restore confidence.

"The time has come, all the back of the current crisis, to proclaim that the great neoliberal experiment of past failed, that the utopian free-market ideology enshrined in the Washington Consensus is bankrupt," Rudd said. "Ironically, a failure to social democracy to prevent liberal democracy from overwhelming itself."

He argued that the great neoliberal experiment of the past 30 years represented by Margaret Thatcher, Ronald Reagan, Alan Greenspan (former chair of the US Federal Reserve), and John Howard (former conservative Australian prime minister) had failed.

But Rudd also warned that too much regulation and intervention must be avoided.

"For social democrats, it is critical that we get it right—not just to save the system of open markets from self-destruction but also to rebuild confidence in properly regulated markets, so as to prevent anyone returning to the failed to the far Right Once-talking bold," he said.

The prime minister said there was a need for a robust analysis of "properly regulated markets and the proper role of the state, in a new tension for the future that eschews the extremism of both Left and Right."

Personal greed

Rudd said the "ideology of unrestrained free market, discredited by the Great Depression," reemerged in the 1970s and was promoted by the Reagan and Thatcher governments in the United States and Britain and became the "economic orthodoxy."

This neoliberal philosophy was reflected in "some utter waste of tax cuts," Rudd said, and conservative governments bragged about reducing debt while not investing in education and skills.

"Neoliberalism and the free-market fundamentalism it has produced, has been revealed as little more than personal greed dressed up as an economic philosophy," he said.

"Governments in our free democratic world that neoliberals have argued it is. Governments, properly constituted and properly directed, is for the common good, embracing basic individual freedoms and fairness, a project designed for the many, not just the few."

Rudd said the current crisis "is the culmination of a 30-year domination of economic policy by a free-market ideology that has been variously called neoliberalism, economic liberalism, economic fundamentalism, Thatcherism or the Washington consensus."

Activist state, open markets

Saying that neoliberalism was unrivalled from 1970 to 2008, he speculated that the post-2008 epoch might be called "social capitalism" or "liberal Democratic capitalism." He said it would be defined by an activist state and open markets.

Rudd holds that social democrats must use a reinvented state power to regulate markets, make adverse balance between public and private interests, embrace Keynesian economics, correct for the market failure from the financial system to climate change, invest more in education, health, unemployment insurance and retirement insurance while supporting open markets and open trade, according to the current Left and nationalist Right.

Rudd fell short of accusing Obama the latter sides of an ideological social democrats, without saying Obama was a half-baked social democrat.

But he was speaking from the context of the political and social traditions of a caring and open nation.

However, Rudd cautioned Obama's criticism of greedy Wall Street financiers being paid billions in bonuses while governments spend trillions to bail out their companies.

Rudd backed at US suggestion of using private business. "Nationalization is a sure-fire way of turning recession into depression, as it disenfranchises the engine of global demand," he said. It's not Hollywood's solution: Wall Street bankers in the dock in Davos.

Statement from the Private Sector Members of the Capital Market Development Council on recent failures of financial institutions

We, the private sector members of the Capital Market Development Council (CMDC), wish to express our grave concern over the circumstances surrounding the recent failure of a syndicated group of smaller banks that engaged in Ponzi or pyramiding-like schemes. It is extremely alarming that vital regulatory actions of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas over banks have been impeded by Court issuance of temporary restraining orders (TRO).

While our economy may have been spared the direct hit of giant financial institution failures in the US, we need to brace ourselves for the full impact of the global economic and financial crisis. To do so, it is imperative that our domestic financial market is kept stable. This is only possible if financial institutions are adequately capitalized and competently managed, and that the investing and depositing public have full faith and confidence in the system.

The financial system's strength relies mainly on how diligently financial institutions perform their fiduciary duties, strictly abiding by the principles of good governance, on how closely regulators keep watch of these institutions to ensure protection of the public's hard-earned savings; on how well investors and depositors exercise discretion and due diligence in choosing which bank or financial institution to entrust their funds with; and, when failure becomes inevitable, on how well the safety net works to cushion the fall.

Regulators play an important role in all four pillars of the financial system. They must not only be well-equipped with the needed resources and infrastructure, and manned by the best and the brightest. They must also be given immunity from suits, except in cases of bad faith and grave abuse of discretion, to allow them to promptly and fully dispense their duties. The people who fail in their fiduciary responsibilities, particularly perpetrators of fraudulent schemes, must be prosecuted swiftly with diligent application of the full force of the law.

The CMDC strongly urges our legislators to enact laws that will reinforce the ability of regulators to fearlessly supervise financial institutions, and to promptly implement preventive and corrective actions in order to minimize the financial cost and the social trauma arising from failures of financial institutions. We recommend caution against the moral hazards that may be triggered by legislative acts that seek to enhance investor and depositor protection without the concomitant measures to raise standards of governance, strengthen regulations, promote investor vigilance, and enable safety net institutions to manage their risks.

Clearly, the brazen acts of rogue bankers to subvert the authority of regulators and abuse the protection presently afforded depositors cannot be allowed to continue. Prompt and strong legislative action is called for to restore public confidence and achieve the much-needed stability in the financial system.

The Capital Market Development Council (CMDC) is a private government sector advisory group, chaired by the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX), co-chaired by the Dept. of Finance and the Securities and Exchange Commission. CMDC is focused on identifying and pushing for the introduction of policy reforms and enactment of vital legislative measures geared towards long-term, stable, and sustainable growth. The private sector Council members are the Financial Executives Institute of the Phil., the Philippine Stock Exchange, the Philippine Dealing System, the Bankers Association of the Philippines, the Investment House Association of the Philippines, the Philippine Life Insurance Association, the Philippine Federation of Investment Plan Companies, the Philippine Chamber and Commerce Association, and the Philippine Association of Securities Brokers and Dealers, Inc.

SPORTS

ALASKA'S Lik Tenorio drives past TNT's Jayson Castro. The King Tenor in Game 2 was shackled off game long but night and wound up scoreless. AUGUST SANCHEZ

Texters avoid deeper hole, take Game 3

By Marcus R. Castillo

TALK 'N TEXT DIDN'T NEED AN ENDgame to close this one out.

Jumping out of the gate hard and with all guns on rapid fire, the Tropang Texters—whose coach Chot Reyes said lost the first two games in the homestretch—needed just three quarters to dig Alaska apart and get finally back in the SPC PBA Philippine Cup title series fight.

The Texters established their offensive will early and held on to it for all of last night's tournament-cut 4-hr.time 90-79 Game 3 victory over Alaska at the Araneta Coliseum that ran

VISUAL A28

HEALTH ALERT

KIM ATIENZA

OVERCOMING OXIDATIVE STRESS

Oxidative Stress is a condition where your body is overcome by way too many free radicals than the antioxidants in your body can fight off and destroy.

Free radicals are unstable chemical compounds that react with other substances in your body to damage cells. Free radicals are actually formed and destroyed as your body performs normal metabolic processes. The aging process, infections, and immune responses all increase the generation of free radicals. These are neutralized by antioxidants. But because exposure to external factors such as pollution, cigarette smoke, and sunlight also increase free radical production, our bodies may not have enough antioxidants to fight these off. Severe psychological and emotional stress, like when you're grappling over how to meet sales targets or perhaps anxiety about your relationships, may also aggravate Oxidative Stress.

> People who have increased risks to cellular damage from Oxidative Stress may have weakened immune functions and lower resistance. This makes them more susceptible to infections.

Oxidative Stress has also been associated with neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. It is also linked to heart disease, premature aging, cancer, and chronic fatigue syndrome.

Linked to several ailments, Oxidative Stress definitely manifests itself as a Red Alert of Aging.

There is no specific medicine or treatment to combat and prevent Oxidative Stress. It takes a change in the way we live and what we eat.

Live a healthy lifestyle. Avoid factors that can significantly increase the amount of free radicals in the body, such as smoking, alcohol, pollution, too much sunlight, and severe emotional stress. A healthy number of sleeping hours will also help. Take time to unwind and relax your mind. Engage in regular exercise, eat a smart and balanced diet with a multivitamin supplement like Sustagen Premium to help the body store up defenses versus free radicals.

Sustagen Premium has Vitamins C and E, both powerful antioxidants that possess free radical quenching properties. More than that, there are also a variety of hypoallergenic phytonutrients that can be very helpful in neutralizing free radicals. You can help your body defend itself by increasing your dietary intake of antioxidants. Fruits and vegetables in combination have synergistic effects on antioxidant activities. It is thus recommended to increase consumption of fruits and vegetables. I.e., up to five or more servings a day.

It's time to put the red flag on the Red Alerts of Aging! Start a healthy lifestyle, go for regular medical check-ups, and drink milk like Sustagen Premium daily.

FIGHT THE RED ALERTS OF AGING

Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Lhuillier

For inquiries on ATM, e-Banking and Remittance services, call our 24-hour customer assistance
860-3000
or 1-800-10-860-3000 (domestic toll-free for provincial areas only)
We're at your service anytime, everyday.
www.metrobank.com.ph
Metrobank
You're in good hands.

1 killed, 2 hurt in hostage incident

Hostage-taker denies raping victim, says she was rude to him

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A WOMAN WAS KILLED WHILE TWO OTHERS WERE WOUNDED IN A HOSTAGE-taking incident which shook up a quiet neighborhood in Quezon City early yesterday morning.

The hostage taker, Jerwin Monteroso, 23, a homeboy and native of Zamboanga City, was arrested after he also tried to set fire to the two-story house owned by his employers, Jimmy Tan, on Don Manuel corner Don Pepe Streets in Barangay Sto. Domingo.

Supt. Norberto Balogog, Quezon City Police District Station 1 commander, identified the woman who was killed as Luisita Villaranda, 23.

Wounded, on the other hand, were Bautista Carlos, 24 and Jennifer Tolabil, 18.

According to Balogog, the three women and Monteroso were live-in workers in the house of Tan, a businessman who manufactured faborets and plastic products.

Rape attempt

Officer-on-case PO3 Ernesto Corpuz Jr. said the hostage-taking incident started at around 7:30 a.m. yesterday when Monteroso scaled the room where the three women were staying and tried to rape Villaranda.

The victim, however, resisted, scratching him with her nails, prompting Monteroso to stab her repeatedly.

Where the commotion awakened Carlos and Tolabil, Monteroso hit them on their heads with a blunt object.

But despite her injuries, Carlos managed to escape and call the police for help.

When the police came, Monteroso took Tolabil hostage and then tried to set the bedroom burned at the back of the house on fire.

He was, however, overpowered by members of a Special Weapons and Tactics team who also safely rescued his captive.

Quezon City firemen later put out the fire before it could spread to other parts of the house.

Victim's body found

Corpuz said they found Villaranda on her bed with her underwear pulled down.

"We have yet to determine if she was sexually assaulted," he added.

Carlos and Tolabil were taken for treatment to a nearby hospital while police took Monteroso into custody.

He later told the investigators that he did not rape Villaranda, adding that he killed her because she was rude to him.

"She always scolded me, more than our employers did," Monteroso said in Filipino.

Ready to face the consequences

According to him, he was ready to face the consequences of his actions.

Police said they would file charges of murder, arson, two counts of frustrated homicide and acts of lasciviousness against him.

QUBE 7in1 Notebook
starts at Php 15,999.00
www.buyqube.com
All in One PC
Shuttle X200
HOME THEATER PC
Php 19,999.00
Order: Online now www.buyqube.com
sales@buyqube.com
Order Now! call Qube Metro Mla & Alabang 410-7825 Qube Cebu (032) 413-4404 Qube Davao (082) 227-0944

Cops warn parents vs sweet-talking recruiters

By Michel Ramos

THE POLICE WARNED THE PUBLIC THE other day to beware of members of syndicate recruiting young women to work as waitresses, with the victims ending up as sex workers in bars in the provinces.

The Tagaytay police issued the warning following last month's rescue of six young girls aged 16 to 20 from suspected prostitution dens in Batangas, Indefonso Ternate, Nueva Ecija.

Senior Supt. Camilo Cascolan, city police chief, said the parents and relatives of the six victims went to their office last week to ask for their help.

In their complaint, the kin of the six girls said two women identified as April Glinda and Anna Marie Pirabe went to their house two weeks ago, "looking for young and pretty girls."

High-paying salary

They added that the two women assured them that the six girls would receive a good salary working as waitresses in a restaurant in Batangas.

"But as soon as they left their homes, the girls failed to contact their parents who then started to worry about the victims," Cascolan told the reporters.

He said he immediately deployed members of the Tagaytay Police Women's Desk, led by Chief Insp. Dinha Ingalla, after they received information that the victims were working as guest relations officers in bars in the provinces of Batangas and Nueva Ecija.

According to him, Glinda and Pirabe were

LAKAS NG ARAW, ABOT SA GABI.
Batteryang Magkakapay ng Limang
MOTOLITE

EJECT PLEMA, EXPEL BACTERIA*
BAGO DUMIKIT SA LUNG PASSAGES.
Carbocisteine
Solmux®

Manila court to hear Gonzalez's bail petition

By Norman Bordadora

THE SUPREME COURT HAS ORDERED a Manila Regional Trial Court to take up a petition for bail filed by businessman Lyndon Gonzalez who was charged with the murder of his stepbrother, Federico Delgado.

"The Court is not in a position to grant bail as respondents as such grant requires evidentiary hearing that should be conducted by the trial court where the murder case is pending," the high tribunal's First Division said in a resolution dated Dec. 17, 2008.

A copy of the resolution was received by the high court's public information office on Jan. 26.

On Aug. 28 last year, the Court of Appeals affirmed the dismissal of the murder and physical injuries charges filed against Gonzalez and his driver, Antonio Bautista, after it found "significant inconsistencies" in the account of the lone witness.

The appellate court, however, refrained from declaring its order necessary after Delgado's heirs asked the Supreme Court to review the case.

The Manila RTC Branch 32, where the charges against Gonzalez and Bautista were filed, also suspended hearings on the pair's motion for reconsideration regarding its order for the issuance of warrants for their arrest pending the high tribunal's resolution of the Delgados' petition for review.

In its resolution, the Supreme Court said the appearance for bail is not an admission of the existence of probable cause against the movants.

"This Court finds that there is no reason necessary to review respondents' filing of an application for bail and respondents' seeking to challenge the existence of probable cause against them," it said.

It added, "However, it is the RTC that should hear the respondents' application for bail and receive evidence to determine if [their] guilt is strong as the Court is not a trier of facts."

Delgado was stabbed dead by two men in his apartment in Malate, Manila, on March 13, 2007.

His companion, Amanda Perez, who was with him at the time of the incident, managed to escape and later identified Gonzalez and Bautista as the ones responsible for his death.

Citizen's call

Mandaluyong City gov't issues clarification

ON JAN. 3, a text message from friends in Mandaluyong City came out in Metro Citizen's Call, the message read, "I have not seen any other streets as chaotic as Kalentong where passengers wait for passengers right in the middle of the road, near the foot of the bridge." From her article, it is very clear that the street was referring to is not part of Kalentong in Mandaluyong City. The street is under the jurisdiction of another city. In line with our peace and order efforts, the Mandaluyong City government tried to bring some order to traffic flow in the area. However, the residents there complained and told us that the street was not under our jurisdiction. While we appreciate the intervention of Rosalie and the inquirer itself by bringing a public service column like this, we deemed it necessary to clarify the misleading information.

ATTY. JIMMY CURIO
Public Information Officer-Head
Mandaluyong City Hall

Sleepless in Frisco

WOULD it be possible to put bumps in Barangay Marilim on San Joaquin corner Wayside Streets in Frisco, Quezon City? This is a residential area but it gets too noisy at night because of the fast motorbikes and cars. We can't sleep anymore. Some even turn the street into a testing area for testing out how fast their bike can go.

JAMES JR. Frisco, Quezon City

Attention, Mayor Lim

MAYOR Lim, I thought you were implementing a zero-vendo policy. Why isn't that here in Plaza del Conquistador Streets, vendors have taken over the road or sidewalks? What is surprising is that whenever there is a clearing operation against them, they are the first to leave and therefore, they do not sell their wares on the street. What about us traders who shell out money for a municipal license every quarter? I hope you can do something about this problem. The streets are becoming too structured, thinking that they own the street and sidewalks. You have cleared other areas of vendors, why have you not done the same to this area? It looks as if they're testing you, mayor.

SUSAN AT Ongpin

TRAFFIC-CAUSING FOOTBRIDGE

Rico, 46, of Quezon City writes: "There is heavy traffic on Quezon Avenue corner Banawe Street which often results in vehicular accidents. I blame this on the footbridge which is situated at the corner of Banawe. Jeepney drivers often stop at the corner of the street to pick up passengers who have just gone down the footbridge, leading to heavy traffic in the area."

1 killed, 2 hurt . . .

(story on page A2)

Cops warn parents . . .

(story on page A2)

MetroBriefs

MRT worker found dead

Taytay job fair on Feb. 6

DID YOU KNOW

Power 100 people are celebrating the
100 people are celebrating their

Luzon	Northern Luzon	Southern Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Alexander Mateo	Dionisio Reyalvo	Alma Malabanan	Alex Aristola	Adriano Abarquez
Elsie Dorsaval	Elle Lee	Antonia Lagra	Amarita Baguio	Carlo Escoto
Analiza De Guia	JoAnn Monteverde	Bayani Soriano	Arman Lugod	Constancio Bello
Cesar Hernandez	Joanna Ilustrisimo	Cesar Babadilla	Carmelo Mendoza	Danny Dahao
Estella Rosete	Joseph Soriano	Chito Llana	Carmelo Cabardo	Fe Dofiles
Evelita Tapia	Kerwin Soriano	Criselda Ocampo	Dr. Lucio Nitiel, Jr.	Hilda Wee
Gloria Beyboy	Ma. Cristina Juglion	Donald Ventura	Elton John Michael Amores	Hja. Norjaina Abdu
Irene Limsaing	Marcelo Nuvin, Jr.	Edward Tuño	Jesus Candia	Jeremy Reyes
Jesus Secretario	Marlson Aguinaldo	Gaylord Julius Narcelles	Jimson Abella	Joenes Sundae Ca
Joseph Bacsal	Melanie Carlos	George Cuerva	Joena Bedia	Mae Benggay
Julius Parilla	Melchor Dela Cruz	Henry Kornegay	Jovonte Sonno	Pepito Cloco
Norberto Tayapan	Raven Ariesgado	Joel Calao	Julian Bago, Jr.	Princess Atilano
Ma. Amity Caragoy	Rene Molina	Ma. Teresa Mendoza	Junorie Abella	Prudence Plaza, Jr.
Norbeid Hidalgo	Rhian Javier	Mark/Jay Minette Francisco	Kristelle Paquit	Ramona Atilano
Nestor Yap, Jr.	Rodelow Estandarte	Quirino Sapunta	Moonyeen Lolita Aluben	Raphael Jon Ferra
Rene Navarro	Roland Joseph Cangco	Randy Gerona	Nilo Arrojo	Regie Copin
Roger Advincula	Rommel Lalap	Rebecca Sumaoang	Renlie James Sayajon	Richard Cepada
Ronald Allan Santos	Ronald Talentino	Rodelio Cruz	Reynaldo Culahoso	Rowena Mangilen
Vinnie Arcua	Sonny Boy Carilla	Ruben Reyes, SJ	Sarah Jane Henson	Ruben Evangelista
Zaida Ortega	Winie Estores, Jr.	Thom Marcos	Shyrel Magallanes	Stephen Wee

Grandma: Octuplets mom obsessed with having kids

LOS ANGELES—THE WOMAN who gave birth to octuplets that went conceived all 14 of her children through in vitro fertilization, is not married and has been obsessed with having children since she was a teenager, her mother said.

Angela Suleman told The Associated Press she was not supportive when her daughter, Nadya Suleman, decided to have more embryos implanted after giving birth to her sixth child, Joshua, in 2002.

"It won't go on any longer," she said of a phone interview on Friday. "She's got six children and no husband. I was brought up the traditional way. I firmly believe in marriage. But she didn't want to get married."

Nadya Suleman, 33, gave birth on Monday to newly Bellflower. She was expected to remain in the hospital for at least a few more days, and her newborns for at least a month.

A spokesperson at Kaiser Permanente Bellflower Medical Center said the babies were progressing daily, with all eight breathing on unassisted and being tube-fed.

While her daughter recovers, Angela Suleman is taking care of the other six children, ages 2 through 7, at the family home in Whittier, about 15 miles east of downtown Los Angeles.

She said she warned her daughter that when she goes home from the hospital, "I'm going to be gone."

Angela Suleman said her daughter always had trouble carrying and underwent in vitro fertilization treatments because her fallopian tubes are "plugged up."

"Every time it starts, moderate left ovary after her previous pregnancies and her daughter didn't want them destroyed, so she decided to have more children.

Her mother said she does not believe her daughter will have any more children.

"She doesn't have any more (frozen embryos), so it's over now," she said. "It has to be."

Nadya Suleman wanted to have children since she was a teenager, "but luckily she couldn't," her mother said.

"Instead of becoming a kindergarten teacher or something, she wanted having them, but not the normal way," her mother said.

Her daughter's obsession with children caused Angela Suleman considerable stress, as she sought help from a psychologist, who told her to cut her her daughter out of the house.

"Maybe she wouldn't have had so many kids then, but she is a grown woman," Angela Suleman said. "I feel responsible, and I didn't want an abortion but can't."

Little psychological research has been conducted on she ever seen women having so many children at once.

Dr. David Diamond, a co-director for the Center for Reproductive Psychology in San Diego, said mothers can be drawn to in vitro conceptions for a number of reasons, with some finding the experience so satisfying they choose to become surrogates.

Bruce G. Sanford, a Washington and media specializing in women's reproductive issues, said while she doesn't know much about Nadya Suleman's background, women does have obsessive-compulsive disorder can become classified as difficult obsessions.

AP

WORLD BRIEFS

111 dead in Kenya gas blaze

NEGOMBO—An overloaded tanker exploded as it tried to siphon fuel from a ruptured pipeline, killing at least 111 people and injuring 200, officials said on Sunday. Nearly hospitals were packed with victims, including small children, suffering burns from the blaze. Eyewitnesses said the tanker driver and others were trying to transfer petrol to containers when the vehicle exploded. "It was a horrible scene. Many people were screaming and most of them were coming with fire on their bodies, they were just running into the bush," said Charles Kamau, 20.

AP

Iraqis vote on almost violence-free election day

BAGHDAD—Iraqis voted on Saturday for local representatives in an unusually violent-free election day ahead of crucial provincial councils that were decided unprecedented by violence, and deadly and lethal balance. By night fall there were no confirmed deaths. Security was extraordinary. Driving was banned in most of the country to prevent suicide bombers from attacking any of the more than 5,000 polling centers and security checkpoints, often around just yards apart. The tight security, coupled with confusion over where voters should cast their ballots, appeared to have reduced turnout in many districts across the country. Senior members of several political parties were complaining publicly about below the polls' threat.

AFP

Obama has begun discreet talks with Iran, Syria

WASHINGTON—US President-Barack Obama has already reached out to officials in the last few months to hold high-level but discreet talks with both Iran and Syria, regardless of the meetings aide. Officially, Obama's overtures toward both Tehran and Damascus have remained limited. In an interview broadcast on Monday, Obama said the United States would offer aid to Iran on an unconditional basis if diplomacy. Other Islamic Republic's leaders "are directed their first," Medea congratulation experts had warned "very, very high-level" contacts in the first few months with Iranian leaders, said Jeffrey Bleichelt, senior fellow director for the 20 branch of the Pugwash group, an international organization of scientists which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995.

AFP

Russians rise in peaceful protests

MOSCOW—Protesters took demonstrations throughout Russia on Saturday, offering largely subdued, but unified criticism of the government's economic policies as the country continues to sink deeper into an economic morass. Antigovernment protests are rare in Russia, and the latest come amid a growing public anger with a quick-armed economy, widespread anti-union rather years of strong economic growth. Officials had initially threatened to publicly acknowledge the city's growing economic troubles brought on by a sharp drop in oil prices and the worldwide financial downturn. The government has allocated billions of dollars to bail out troubled banks and companies but has yet to put forward a clear long-term strategy for dealing with mounting unemployment and a rapidly weakening ruble. Other demonstrations against the government, as well as some in support, were held in cities throughout the country. Russian news agencies reported.

AFP

CHRYSLER
ENGINEERED BEAUTIFULLY

For over 25 years,
12 million families can't go wrong.

The 2009 Chrysler Town & Country Limited Edition.
Yours for 20% down payment, 0% interest for 2 years w/ free insurance.

Luxury seating for 7- 30 GB MyGIG® Multimedia Entertainment System for storing music, family photos and watching DVDs complete w/ rear LCD screens - UConnect® Bluetooth® Hands-free Telephone System - Parkview® Rear Back-up Camera - ParkSense® Rear Park Assist System - HID Headlamps - Second-row Power-down Windows - Power Sliding Doors & Liftgate w/ Obstruction Sensors - Industry-exclusive Swivel 'n Go passenger seats - Advanced front and side curtain airbags - Power-folding rear seat - 5-Star US Gov't Crash Test Rating

CHRYSLER MAKATI 3287 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City, Metro Manila TEL (632) 810 2222 / MOBILE (0922) 854 3717
CHRYSLER GREENHILLS 1008 EDSA Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila TEL (632) 722 2888 / MOBILE (0922) 854 3714

www.chrysler.com.ph

ir 10,000 pesos worth of free fue
10,000 pesos worth of free fuel

SHELL

The WORLD

Editor Lamberto B. Quiazon

N. Korea: 2 Koreas on path toward war

SEOUL—NORTH KOREA WARNED ON SUNDAY that the downward spiral of relations with the South has pushed the peninsula to the brink of war, two days after it said it was scrapping all pacts with its rich capitalist neighbor.

Analysts say the rhetorical volleys are aimed at changing the hardline policies of the South's president and are meant to grab the attention of new US President Barack Obama.

"The policy of confrontation with the DPRK (North Korea) pursued by the Lee Myung-bak group is ... the only source of military tension and war between the North and the South," the North's official KCNA news agency reported a commentary in the communist party newspaper as saying.

"In Korea in the time of irrational confrontation means escalated tension and it may lead to an uncontrollable and unavoidable military conflict and a war," it said.

The states, technically still at war because their 1950-53 conflict ended with a ceasefire and not a peace treaty, have more than 1 million troops near their border. There are about 28,000 US troops in South Korea to defend the country.

The North's bureaucracy works closely to form policy and it may still be trying to figure out its approach with the new Obama team, analysts said, making it easier for Pyongyang to direct its anger at Washington's office, including Seoul.

The North in recent months has repeatedly threatened to destroy the conservative government of President Lee Myung-bak, which ended a decade of free-flowing aid to Pyongyang after taking office a year ago.

Lee's government mostly ignored Pyongyang's taunts.

"North Korea's escalating threats do not indicate major hostilities are imminent," said Bruce Klingner, an expert on Korean affairs at the Heritage Foundation in Washington.

"However, they could easily ravage another round of tactical naval confrontations with South Korea in the Yellow Sea."

The two Koreas fought deadly naval skirmishes in disputed Yellow Sea waters off the west coast in 1999 and 2002.

North Korea has clamped down on its border with the South in recent months and has cancelled cooperation deals reached during a period of detente in the past few years before Lee came to power.

The deals included measures for repair of facilities and running trains across the heavily guarded border.

The latest move follows comments by a US national security official that the conservative state's leader, Kim Jong-il, appeared to have rebounded politically from his recent health scare and is making major decisions.

Kim (reported a stroke in mid-2008, is presumed to be the wealthiest, KCNA said, with Kim noting "the (North) Korean people are ready to flatten every mountain and canopy even a sea at one go when called for by the Party."

Reuters

S. Korea suffers record export fall as downturn bites

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREAN EXPORTS IN January shrank by a record pace as global downturn deepened, putting pressure on the government and central bank to take stronger steps to shore up Asia's fourth largest economy.

South Korea is home to the world's leading producers of computer chips, mobile phones and ships and is the first big Asian exporter to report trade data each month, providing an early indication of the state of global demand.

Exports in January fell a record 33.8 percent year-on-year earlier, worse than analysts had expected, while imports tagged 32.1 percent as consumers cut back spending amid fears the country was rapidly sliding into recession.

"Exports will continue to fall by double-digit rates at least by the end of the third quarter as the global economy will remain sluggish for quite a long time," said Lee Sang-jae, economist at Hyundai Securities.

The data will likely reinforce expectations that South Korea's central bank will cut interest rates for the sixth time in four months at its Feb. 12 policy meeting to help boost domestic demand and cushion cooling demand from abroad.

The gloomy export outlook also hinders efforts by the ailing won currency, whose tumble for several weeks until late November had briefly raised concerns that the country could fall into a fresh financial crisis. The won has lost more than 30 percent of its value against the dollar over the past year.

Japan, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and a number of other export-reliant Asian economies have also reported a collapse in exports in recent months as consumers demand buckled in the United States and Europe.

Economists surveyed by Reuters had forecast South Korea's exports would drop 26.1 percent in January over a year earlier and imports by 23.5 percent.

Exports totaled $21.06 billion in January while imports stood at $24.66, producing a trade deficit of $3.59 billion, according to figures sent on the South Korean customs agency's website (http://www.customs.go.kr) on Sunday. South Korea posted a revised $6.34 billion trade surplus in December 2008.

The Bank of Korea has already sawed chain-halved its base one-three-only October to a record low of 2.5 percent in a bid to help the local economy avert dipping into its first recession since the Asian financial crisis a decade ago.

Reuters

Obama's Kenyan half-brother detained

NAIROBI—A 1[illegible]-year half-brother of US President Barack Obama said on Sunday he was briefly arrested at his home in a slum on suspicion of drugs possession.

"I think it was a misunderstanding. I do not do drugs," George Hussein Obama, 27, told Reuters from Nairobi's Kibera slum, where he was picked up for a few hours on Saturday.

"They released me with no charge." Local media quoted police saying Obama, who works as a mechanic, had been found with two rolls of marijuana.

Kenya's leading newspapers, the Nation, said he would be charged in court on Monday.

But Obama said that was untrue, and police officials refused to comment.

"I don't know what you are talking about," area police chief Jasper Gesimba said, before hanging up the phone.

George Obama hardly knows his brother, the first black president of the United States, who is here nevertheless, chipped in Kenya due to his ancestral roots.

Reuters

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Wesley** virtual champ in tough Corus tilt /A30

SPORTS

Editor Teodoro S. Melendrez • Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

Alcantara 'ripe' for Davis Cup

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HOLING IN: Junior sensation Francis Casey Alcantara shows his Australian Open trophy on his arrival at the NAIA yesterday

FRANCIS CASEY ALCANTARA, THE NEXT best of Philippine tennis, has been recommended for inclusion in the RP Davis Cup squad that will see action in Hong Kong from March 6 to 8.

The 16-year-old Alcantara became the first Filipino to triumph in a tennis Grand Slam event Saturday after teaming up with Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Cheng-peng to cop the boys' doubles crown.

Though the decision to pick Alcantara outright for the RP team would come from the Philippine Tennis Association's board of directors, Philta vice president Randy Villanueva said refereeing fans would be "crazy to justify after winning a Grand Slam event."

The Cagayan de Oro lone netter could play alongside Fil-Americans Cecil Mamiit and PJ Tierro.

Alcantara and Hsieh beat Mikhail Biryukov of Russia and Yasutaka Uchiyama of Japan, 6-4, 6-2, in Saturday's finals at Melbourne Park.

Alcantara turns 17 on Wednesday.

ALCANTARA, P.30

SUFFERING FROM HAIRLOSS? DON'T GIVE UP.

Svenson gives you treatments that not only fight hairloss but bring back thicker, healthier hair. **Trisho-DHT Inhibitor** targets dihydrotestosterone or *DHT*, the main culprit of male pattern baldness. It controls a receding hairline and other balding spots and boosts hair growth. Hairloss stops and you get fuller hair! For severe hairloss, **Transdermal Cosmetic Reconstruction (TCR)** is a revolutionary technology enabling men to overcome baldness. It's a super-fine synthetic skin with hair that's bonded to the scalp. You get a head of hair in less than 2 hours without surgery!

Get your hair back. Get your life back! Call now for a FREE private consultation.

Svenson

call 892-HAIR (4247)

WESLEY SO: Four straight wins

Wesley virtual champ in tough Corus tilt

Standings after 13 rounds
(1) Wesley (So, Usa) 2895; (2)–3. Ni Hua (Chn) 2751; Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukr) 2751; (4)–5. Pavel Eljanov (Ukr) 2744; Anish Giri (Ned) 2744; (6)–7. Vladimir Kramnik (Rus) 2743; Magnus Carlsen (Nor) 2743; (8)–9. Peter Leko (Hun) 2742; Fabiano Caruana (Usa) 2742; (10)–11. Alexei Shirov (Esp) 2741; Loek Van Wely (Ned) 2741; (12)–13. Sergey Karjakin (Rus) 2740; Levon Aronian (Arm) 2740; (14)–15. Viswanathan Anand (Ind) 2739; Teimour Radjabov (Aze) 2739; (16)–17. Alexander Grischuk (Rus) 2738; Peter Svidler (Rus) 2738; (18)–19. Pentala Harikrishna (Ind) 2737; Vugar Gashimov (Aze) 2737; (20)–21. Michael Adams (Eng) 2736; Etienne Bacrot (Fra) 2736; (22)–23. Boris Gelfand (Isr) 2735; Dmitry Jakovenko (Rus) 2735; (24)–25. Wang Yue (Chn) 2734; Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukr) 2734; (26)–27. Gata Kamsky (Usa) 2733; Alexander Morozevich (Rus) 2733; (28)–29. Ivan Cheparinov (Bul) 2732; Dmitry Andreikin (Rus) 2732; (30)–31. Sergey Fedorchuk (Ukr) 2731; Alexander Motylev (Rus) 2731; (32)–33. Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukr) 2730; Jan Smeets (Ned) 2730; (34)–35. Ivan Sokolov (Ned) 2729; Erwin L'Ami (Ned) 2729; (36)–37. Jan Gustafsson (Ger) 2728; Daniel Fridman (Ger) 2728; (38)–39. Ivan Saric (Cro) 2727; Zahar Efimenko (Ukr) 2727; (40)–41. Ivan Sokolov (Bih) 2726; Dmitry Kollars (Ger) 2726; (42)–43. Alexander Onischuk (Usa) 2725; Vladimir Malakhov (Rus) 2725; (44)–45. Ivan Cheparinov (Ned) 2724; Sergei Movsesian (Svk) 2724; (46)–47. Ivan Sokolov (Srb) 2723; Vladimir Kramnik (Rus) 2723; (48)–49. Ivan Sokolov (Nld) 2722; Ivan Sokolov (Fra) 2722; (50)–51. Ivan Sokolov (Bel) 2721; Ivan Sokolov (Usa) 2721; (52)–53. Ivan Sokolov (Aut) 2720; Ivan Sokolov (Ita) 2720; (54)–55. Ivan Sokolov (Hun) 2719; Ivan Sokolov (Pol) 2719; (56)–57. Ivan Sokolov (Cze) 2718; Ivan Sokolov (Ger) 2718; (58)–59. Ivan Sokolov (Swe) 2717; Ivan Sokolov (Ukr) 2717; (60)–61. Ivan Sokolov (Rus) 2716; Ivan Sokolov (Chn) 2716; (62)–63. Ivan Sokolov (Jpn) 2715; Ivan Sokolov (Kaz) 2715; (64)–65. Ivan Sokolov (Geo) 2714; Ivan Sokolov (Arm) 2714; (66)–67. Ivan Sokolov (Blr) 2713; Ivan Sokolov (Isr) 2713; (68)–69. Ivan Sokolov (Lat) 2712; Ivan Sokolov (Ltu) 2712; (70)–71. Ivan Sokolov (Mda) 2711; Ivan Sokolov (Mne) 2711; (72)–73. Ivan Sokolov (Nor) 2710; Ivan Sokolov (Pol) 2710; (74)–75. Ivan Sokolov (Rom) 2709; Ivan Sokolov (Srb) 2709; (76)–77. Ivan Sokolov (Svk) 2708; Ivan Sokolov (Tur) 2708; (78)–79. Ivan Sokolov (Ukr) 2707; Ivan Sokolov (Usa) 2707; (80)–81. Ivan Sokolov (Uzb) 2706; Ivan Sokolov (Vie) 2706; (82)–83. Ivan Sokolov (Wls) 2705; Ivan Sokolov (Zim) 2705; (84)–85. Ivan Sokolov (Afg) 2704; Ivan Sokolov (Alb) 2704; (86)–87. Ivan Sokolov (Alg) 2703; Ivan Sokolov (Ago) 2703; (88)–89. Ivan Sokolov (Arg) 2702; Ivan Sokolov (Arm) 2702; (90)–91. Ivan Sokolov (Aus) 2701; Ivan Sokolov (Aut) 2701; (92)–93. Ivan Sokolov (Aze) 2700; Ivan Sokolov (Bah) 2700; (94)–95. Ivan Sokolov (Bar) 2699; Ivan Sokolov (Bel) 2699; (96)–97. Ivan Sokolov (Ben) 2698; Ivan Sokolov (Bhu) 2698; (98)–99. Ivan Sokolov (Bih) 2697; Ivan Sokolov (Bol) 2697; (100)–101. Ivan Sokolov (Bot) 2696; Ivan Sokolov (Bra) 2696; (102)–103. Ivan Sokolov (Brn) 2695; Ivan Sokolov (Brn) 2695; (104)–105. Ivan Sokolov (Bul) 2694; Ivan Sokolov (Bul) 2694; (106)–107. Ivan Sokolov (Bur) 2693; Ivan Sokolov (Bur) 2693; (108)–109. Ivan Sokolov (Cam) 2692; Ivan Sokolov (Cam) 2692; (110)–111. Ivan Sokolov (Can) 2691; Ivan Sokolov (Can) 2691; (112)–113. Ivan Sokolov (Cay) 2690; Ivan Sokolov (Cay) 2690; (114)–115. Ivan Sokolov (Cfr) 2689; Ivan Sokolov (Cfr) 2689; (116)–117. Ivan Sokolov (Chd) 2688; Ivan Sokolov (Chd) 2688; (118)–119. Ivan Sokolov (Chi) 2687; Ivan Sokolov (Chi) 2687; (120)–121. Ivan Sokolov (Chn) 2686; Ivan Sokolov (Chn) 2686; (122)–123. Ivan Sokolov (Col) 2685; Ivan Sokolov (Col) 2685; (124)–125. Ivan Sokolov (Com) 2684; Ivan Sokolov (Com) 2684; (126)–127. Ivan Sokolov (Cod) 2683; Ivan Sokolov (Cod) 2683; (128)–129. Ivan Sokolov (Cgo) 2682; Ivan Sokolov (Cgo) 2682; (130)–131. Ivan Sokolov (Crc) 2681; Ivan Sokolov (Crc) 2681; (132)–133. Ivan Sokolov (Civ) 2680; Ivan Sokolov (Civ) 2680; (134)–135. Ivan Sokolov (Cro) 2679; Ivan Sokolov (Cro) 2679; (136)–137. Ivan Sokolov (Cub) 2678; Ivan Sokolov (Cub) 2678; (138)–139. Ivan Sokolov (Cyp) 2677; Ivan Sokolov (Cyp) 2677; (140)–141. Ivan Sokolov (Cze) 2676; Ivan Sokolov (Cze) 2676; (142)–143. Ivan Sokolov (Den) 2675; Ivan Sokolov (Den) 2675; (144)–145. Ivan Sokolov (Dji) 2674; Ivan Sokolov (Dji) 2674; (146)–147. Ivan Sokolov (Dom) 2673; Ivan Sokolov (Dom) 2673; (148)–149. Ivan Sokolov (Ecu) 2672; Ivan Sokolov (Ecu) 2672; (150)–151. Ivan Sokolov (Egy) 2671; Ivan Sokolov (Egy) 2671; (152)–153. Ivan Sokolov (Esa) 2670; Ivan Sokolov (Esa) 2670; (154)–155. Ivan Sokolov (Est) 2669; Ivan Sokolov (Est) 2669; (156)–157. Ivan Sokolov (Eth) 2668; Ivan Sokolov (Eth) 2668; (158)–159. Ivan Sokolov (Fij) 2667; Ivan Sokolov (Fij) 2667; (160)–161. Ivan Sokolov (Fin) 2666; Ivan Sokolov (Fin) 2666; (162)–163. Ivan Sokolov (Fra) 2665; Ivan Sokolov (Fra) 2665; (164)–165. Ivan Sokolov (Gab) 2664; Ivan Sokolov (Gab) 2664; (166)–167. Ivan Sokolov (Gam) 2663; Ivan Sokolov (Gam) 2663; (168)–169. Ivan Sokolov (Geo) 2662; Ivan Sokolov (Geo) 2662; (170)–171. Ivan Sokolov (Ger) 2661; Ivan Sokolov (Ger) 2661; (172)–173. Ivan Sokolov (Gha) 2660; Ivan Sokolov (Gha) 2660; (174)–175. Ivan Sokolov (Gre) 2659; Ivan Sokolov (Gre) 2659; (176)–177. Ivan Sokolov (Grn) 2658; Ivan Sokolov (Grn) 2658; (178)–179. Ivan Sokolov (Gua) 2657; Ivan Sokolov (Gua) 2657; (180)–181. Ivan Sokolov (Gui) 2656; Ivan Sokolov (Gui) 2656; (182)–183. Ivan Sokolov (Hai) 2655; Ivan Sokolov (Hai) 2655; (184)–185. Ivan Sokolov (Hon) 2654; Ivan Sokolov (Hon) 2654; (186)–187. Ivan Sokolov (Hun) 2653; Ivan Sokolov (Hun) 2653; (188)–189. Ivan Sokolov (Ice) 2652; Ivan Sokolov (Ice) 2652; (190)–191. Ivan Sokolov (Ind) 2651; Ivan Sokolov (Ind) 2651; (192)–193. Ivan Sokolov (Ina) 2650; Ivan Sokolov (Ina) 2650; (194)–195. Ivan Sokolov (Iri) 2649; Ivan Sokolov (Iri) 2649; (196)–197. Ivan Sokolov (Irq) 2648; Ivan Sokolov (Irq) 2648; (198)–199. Ivan Sokolov (Isr) 2647; Ivan Sokolov (Isr) 2647; (200)–201. Ivan Sokolov (Ita) 2646; Ivan Sokolov (Ita) 2646; (202)–203. Ivan Sokolov (Jam) 2645; Ivan Sokolov (Jam) 2645; (204)–205. Ivan Sokolov (Jpn) 2644; Ivan Sokolov (Jpn) 2644; (206)–207. Ivan Sokolov (Jor) 2643; Ivan Sokolov (Jor) 2643; (208)–209. Ivan Sokolov (Kaz) 2642; Ivan Sokolov (Kaz) 2642; (210)–211. Ivan Sokolov (Ken) 2641; Ivan Sokolov (Ken) 2641; (212)–213. Ivan Sokolov (Kgz) 2640; Ivan Sokolov (Kgz) 2640; (214)–215. Ivan Sokolov (Kor) 2639; Ivan Sokolov (Kor) 2639; (216)–217. Ivan Sokolov (Kuw) 2638; Ivan Sokolov (Kuw) 2638; (218)–219. Ivan Sokolov (Lao) 2637; Ivan Sokolov (Lao) 2637; (220)–221. Ivan Sokolov (Lat) 2636; Ivan Sokolov (Lat) 2636; (222)–223. Ivan Sokolov (Leb) 2635; Ivan Sokolov (Leb) 2635; (224)–225. Ivan Sokolov (Les) 2634; Ivan Sokolov (Les) 2634; (226)–227. Ivan Sokolov (Lib) 2633; Ivan Sokolov (Lib) 2633; (228)–229. Ivan Sokolov (Lie) 2632; Ivan Sokolov (Lie) 2632; (230)–231. Ivan Sokolov (Ltu) 2631; Ivan Sokolov (Ltu) 2631; (232)–233. Ivan Sokolov (Lux) 2630; Ivan Sokolov (Lux) 2630; (234)–235. Ivan Sokolov (Mac) 2629; Ivan Sokolov (Mac) 2629; (236)–237. Ivan Sokolov (Mad) 2628; Ivan Sokolov (Mad) 2628; (238)–239. Ivan Sokolov (Mal) 2627; Ivan Sokolov (Mal) 2627; (240)–241. Ivan Sokolov (Mdv) 2626; Ivan Sokolov (Mdv) 2626; (242)–243. Ivan Sokolov (Mli) 2625; Ivan Sokolov (Mli) 2625; (244)–245. Ivan Sokolov (Mlt) 2624; Ivan Sokolov (Mlt) 2624; (246)–247. Ivan Sokolov (Mtn) 2623; Ivan Sokolov (Mtn) 2623; (248)–249. Ivan Sokolov (Mri) 2622; Ivan Sokolov (Mri) 2622; (250)–251. Ivan Sokolov (Mex) 2621; Ivan Sokolov (Mex) 2621; (252)–253. Ivan Sokolov (Fsm) 2620; Ivan Sokolov (Fsm) 2620; (254)–255. Ivan Sokolov (Mda) 2619; Ivan Sokolov (Mda) 2619; (256)–257. Ivan Sokolov (Mon) 2618; Ivan Sokolov (Mon) 2618; (258)–259. Ivan Sokolov (Mar) 2617; Ivan Sokolov (Mar) 2617; (260)–261. Ivan Sokolov (Moz) 2616; Ivan Sokolov (Moz) 2616; (262)–263. Ivan Sokolov (Nam) 2615; Ivan Sokolov (Nam) 2615; (264)–265. Ivan Sokolov (Nru) 2614; Ivan Sokolov (Nru) 2614; (266)–267. Ivan Sokolov (Nep) 2613; Ivan Sokolov (Nep) 2613; (268)–269. Ivan Sokolov (Nca) 2612; Ivan Sokolov (Nca) 2612; (270)–271. Ivan Sokolov (Nig) 2611; Ivan Sokolov (Nig) 2611; (272)–273. Ivan Sokolov (Nga) 2610; Ivan Sokolov (Nga) 2610; (274)–275. Ivan Sokolov (Nor) 2609; Ivan Sokolov (Nor) 2609; (276)–277. Ivan Sokolov (Omn) 2608; Ivan Sokolov (Omn) 2608; (278)–279. Ivan Sokolov (Pak) 2607; Ivan Sokolov (Pak) 2607; (280)–281. Ivan Sokolov (Plw) 2606; Ivan Sokolov (Plw) 2606; (282)–283. Ivan Sokolov (Pan) 2605; Ivan Sokolov (Pan) 2605; (284)–285. Ivan Sokolov (Png) 2604; Ivan Sokolov (Png) 2604; (286)–287. Ivan Sokolov (Par) 2603; Ivan Sokolov (Par) 2603; (288)–289. Ivan Sokolov (Per) 2602; Ivan Sokolov (Per) 2602; (290)–291. Ivan Sokolov (Phi) 2601; Ivan Sokolov (Phi) 2601; (292)–293. Ivan Sokolov (Pol) 2600; Ivan Sokolov (Pol) 2600; (294)–295. Ivan Sokolov (Por) 2599; Ivan Sokolov (Por) 2599; (296)–297. Ivan Sokolov (Qat) 2598; Ivan Sokolov (Qat) 2598; (298)–299. Ivan Sokolov (Rom) 2597; Ivan Sokolov (Rom) 2597; (300)–301. Ivan Sokolov (Rus) 2596; Ivan Sokolov (Rus) 2596; (302)–303. Ivan Sokolov (Rwa) 2595; Ivan Sokolov (Rwa) 2595; (304)–305. Ivan Sokolov (Skn) 2594; Ivan Sokolov (Skn) 2594; (306)–307. Ivan Sokolov (Lca) 2593; Ivan Sokolov (Lca) 2593; (308)–309. Ivan Sokolov (Vin) 2592; Ivan Sokolov (Vin) 2592; (310)–311. Ivan Sokolov (Sam) 2591; Ivan Sokolov (Sam) 2591; (312)–313. Ivan Sokolov (Smr) 2590; Ivan Sokolov (Smr) 2590; (314)–315. Ivan Sokolov (Stp) 2589; Ivan Sokolov (Stp) 2589; (316)–317. Ivan Sokolov (Ksa) 2588; Ivan Sokolov (Ksa) 2588; (318)–319. Ivan Sokolov (Sen) 2587; Ivan Sokolov (Sen) 2587; (320)–321. Ivan Sokolov (Srb) 2586; Ivan Sokolov (Srb) 2586; (322)–323. Ivan Sokolov (Sey) 2585; Ivan Sokolov (Sey) 2585; (324)–325. Ivan Sokolov (Sle) 2584; Ivan Sokolov (Sle) 2584; (326)–327. Ivan Sokolov (Sgp) 2583; Ivan Sokolov (Sgp) 2583; (328)–329. Ivan Sokolov (Svk) 2582; Ivan Sokolov (Svk) 2582; (330)–331. Ivan Sokolov (Svn) 2581; Ivan Sokolov (Svn) 2581; (332)–333. Ivan Sokolov (Sol) 2580; Ivan Sokolov (Sol) 2580; (334)–335. Ivan Sokolov (Som) 2579; Ivan Sokolov (Som) 2579; (336)–337. Ivan Sokolov (Rsa) 2578; Ivan Sokolov (Rsa) 2578; (338)–339. Ivan Sokolov (Kor) 2577; Ivan Sokolov (Kor) 2577; (340)–341. Ivan Sokolov (Ssd) 2576; Ivan Sokolov (Ssd) 2576; (342)–343. Ivan Sokolov (Esp) 2575; Ivan Sokolov (Esp) 2575; (344)–345. Ivan Sokolov (Sri) 2574; Ivan Sokolov (Sri) 2574; (346)–347. Ivan Sokolov (Sud) 2573; Ivan Sokolov (Sud) 2573; (348)–349. Ivan Sokolov (Sur) 2572; Ivan Sokolov (Sur) 2572; (350)–351. Ivan Sokolov (Swz) 2571; Ivan Sokolov (Swz) 2571; (352)–353. Ivan Sokolov (Swe) 2570; Ivan Sokolov (Swe) 2570; (354)–355. Ivan Sokolov (Sui) 2569; Ivan Sokolov (Sui) 2569; (356)–357. Ivan Sokolov (Syr) 2568; Ivan Sokolov (Syr) 2568; (358)–359. Ivan Sokolov (Tjk) 2567; Ivan Sokolov (Tjk) 2567; (360)–361. Ivan Sokolov (Tza) 2566; Ivan Sokolov (Tza) 2566; (362)–363. Ivan Sokolov (Tha) 2565; Ivan Sokolov (Tha) 2565; (364)–365. Ivan Sokolov (Tls) 2564; Ivan Sokolov (Tls) 2564; (366)–367. Ivan Sokolov (Tog) 2563; Ivan Sokolov (Tog) 2563; (368)–369. Ivan Sokolov (Tga) 2562; Ivan Sokolov (Tga) 2562; (370)–371. Ivan Sokolov (Ttd) 2561; Ivan Sokolov (Ttd) 2561; (372)–373. Ivan Sokolov (Tun) 2560; Ivan Sokolov (Tun) 2560; (374)–375. Ivan Sokolov (Tur) 2559; Ivan Sokolov (Tur) 2559; (376)–377. Ivan Sokolov (Tkm) 2558; Ivan Sokolov (Tkm) 2558; (378)–379. Ivan Sokolov (Tuv) 2557; Ivan Sokolov (Tuv) 2557; (380)–381. Ivan Sokolov (Uga) 2556; Ivan Sokolov (Uga) 2556; (382)–383. Ivan Sokolov (Ukr) 2555; Ivan Sokolov (Ukr) 2555; (384)–385. Ivan Sokolov (Uae) 2554; Ivan Sokolov (Uae) 2554; (386)–387. Ivan Sokolov (Usa) 2553; Ivan Sokolov (Usa) 2553; (388)–389. Ivan Sokolov (Uru) 2552; Ivan Sokolov (Uru) 2552; (390)–391. Ivan Sokolov (Uzb) 2551; Ivan Sokolov (Uzb) 2551; (392)–393. Ivan Sokolov (Van) 2550; Ivan Sokolov (Van) 2550; (394)–395. Ivan Sokolov (Ven) 2549; Ivan Sokolov (Ven) 2549; (396)–397. Ivan Sokolov (Vie) 2548; Ivan Sokolov (Vie) 2548; (398)–399. Ivan Sokolov (Wls) 2547; Ivan Sokolov (Wls) 2547; (400)–401. Ivan Sokolov (Yem) 2546; Ivan Sokolov (Yem) 2546; (402)–403. Ivan Sokolov (Zam) 2545; Ivan Sokolov (Zam) 2545; (404)–405. Ivan Sokolov (Zim) 2544; Ivan Sokolov (Zim) 2544; (406)–407. Ivan Sokolov (Zim) 2543; Ivan Sokolov (Zim) 2543; (408)–409. Ivan Sokolov (Zim) 2542; Ivan Sokolov (Zim) 2542; (410)–411. Ivan Sokolov (Zim) 2541; Ivan Sokolov (Zim)

Editor Raul G. Manuelo • Assistant Editor Carrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

BPI taps British partner for Philamlife bid

3-way fight for AIG's prized asset looms

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE *ayalas* BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS PLANS TO team up with British insurance giant Prudential plc in its bid for the country's biggest and most profitable insurance group Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co.

Japanese sources from the financial community said BPI and Prudential were in talks to pool resources in tie for the remaining Philippines assets of beleaguered American International Group, which is paring down assets across the globe.

Also recently selling its consumer finance units bundled into ARI (Italian Servitia Bank co-property tycoon Andrew Gotianun's banking arm Isan West Bank, AIG is holding out its crown jewel Philamlife and its remaining subsidiaries as a block.

The sources said the local banking giant had chosen Prudential because of its strong financial position and strategic positioning in Asia. The British insurer has life and mutual fund operations in 13 markets across Asia. Prudential does business in Asia through Prudential Corp Asia, which has presence in China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam and the United Arab Emirates.

BPI SHOT UP 84 centavos to close at P47.20 apiece on the Philippine Stock Exchange on Friday, while Philamlife rose 50 centavos to P89.50 apiece.

Philamlife's net income in 2007 reached P3.2 billion, while BPI's net income for the same year was P11.2 billion.

BPI and Philamlife declined to comment on the report.

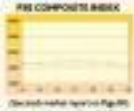
IN THIS ISSUE

Mining firms review projects as global crisis starts to bite /B2

San Miguel beer unit posts 25% profit jump /B4

Jobs present at Clark, CDC says /B3

Lackluster trading seen



LOCAL STOCKS ARE SEEN HEADING to a fourth straight week of lackluster trading this first week of February given a string of negative news on the US economy, stock traders said.

After a really bad January, there seems to be a consensus among investors to stay on the sidelines. It will pain down their stock holdings. Last week, the Philippine Stock Exchange index lost another 1.1% percent to close at 1,825.88.

Banco de Oro strategist Jonathan Ravelas said last week's close suggested a possible retest of the 1,750 levels.

BPI Securities also shared a bearish view in its weekly note. "Outlook remains dim as investors anticipate further weakness in the US economy."

San Miguel Corp. and its flagship beer unit San Miguel Brewery Inc. remain among the few stocks that give excitement to the stock market as it's glowing environment. San Miguel, which obtained a foothold in the boardroom and management of Manila Electric Co., is closely watched given its thirst for expansion.

On the other hand, SMC shares have sharply risen in anticipation of a buy-in by Kirin Holdings of Japan. It also plans to debut into the local bond market with a P40-billion offering of long-term peso bonds, possibly the biggest in local corporate bond history. **Doris C. Dumlao**

BSP warns public on bank rumors

By Michelle V. Rosca

A TOP CENTRAL BANK OFFICIAL has cautioned the public not to believe rumors spreading through text messaging that some banks were on the brink of failure.

"Rumors don't do anyone any good. If people will panic, the [banking] system will be stressed and an [run] will become self-fulfilling," BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr.

He said there were many instances when rumors about banks suffering from liquidity problems were baseless and only meant to befuddle depositors.

The BSP official made the statement following the proliferation of text messages that certain banks were about to collapse. The text messages came after rural banks under the Legacy Group were shut down by the BSP last December because of allegedly engaging in unsafe and unsound banking practices and failure to fully service withdrawals.

Espenilla said the policies about the Legacy banks mainstreamed within that small group, stressing that the banking industry as a whole was very much lending-and well capitalized.

The BSP said the capital adequacy ratio of the country's banking sector was above the 10 percent required by the monetary authority and that their assets were continually growing.

The BSP has also separated that the banking sector's average nonperforming loans ratio, the share of overdue loans to total loans, remained at a minimal 3.07 percent in October last.

Deal calls for additional flights between RP, UAE

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE PHILIPPINES AND THE United Arab Emirates (UAE) have reached a bilateral accord allowing more flights between the two countries.

Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) deputy director Purificio Perezuela said a total of 49 weekly flights or entitlements were added to existing flight frequencies.

The said flag carriers of both countries would have an additional five weekly flights on top of the current nine flights connecting Manila to Dubai and Abu Dhabi, the capital of UAE.

Carriers of both countries were also granted 42 additional flights a week to Clark from Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi.

The airlines may also add 22 more flights a week between Cebu and points in the UAE—Sharjah, Dubai or Abu Dhabi.

Previously, airlines were allowed to fly five times a week to either Clark or Cebu from the UAE.

An additional 21 weekly flights frequencies were allotted for points other than Manila, Clark and Cebu—such as Davao, Iloilo, Leyte and other destinations.

The bilateral air talks were held in Abu Dhabi from January 28 to 29.

The air deal was sealed on Thursday.

Mining firms review projects as global crisis starts to bite

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH THE IMPACT OF THE global recession now most obviously felt, *mining companies have* decided to adopt a wait-and-see attitude, reviewing and repackaging their projects to reduce necessary capital investments.

According to the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, projects that were rescheduled and were now undergoing reassessment and repackaging included Indonesia-based Bilboard Mining Co.'s Tagaytay nickel project, Global Steel Philippines Inc.'s expansion plans and Manila Mining Ltd.'s $400-million high-pressure acid lead project in Zambales.

But the delay in the implementation of these projects should not be seen as an indication of a bearish mining industry, the group said. Instead, firms mining executives to finance these aspirational projects were still quite high, boosting confidence that the shelved projects would still be implemented following reassessment.

The group said investments and production should surge toward the end of the year through 2010.

The implementation of these projects, the group added, would be just in time to take advantage of the expected price turnaround, likely some time within the year.

The availability of funding, however, was crucial to the success of these projects, as well as in ensuring that bullish sentiments on the mining industry would continue, the group said.

The Chamber of Mines had earlier said that the government would play a key role in ensuring that the mining industry stayed afloat until ruling times.

Gladys Ritz, business development head of Ayo Ritz Services, said the country had billions of dollars worth of minerals, but these could not be tapped if the government would not be aggressive in helping the mining sector.

"The government needs to step up and support the mining industry. That can be done through fair participation and the provision of partial guarantees, Finance and Singapore are doing it. We can also do that here. We had earlier laws."

The latest mining sector optimized cautious about investing this year, as proven by the amount of investments that had been committed for 2009.

In an earlier interview, Mines and Geosciences Bureau director Horacio Ramos said that according to preliminary data, the $1 billion in investments commitments for this year would likely not materialize in full, and instead come up to only $600 million.

Fighting poverty: The missing element

FOR YEARS, I HAVE HEARD SO speeches and public presentations in every new audience with a challenge for each of them to help at least one poor family get out of poverty. I call attention to the current official poverty incidence figure of 26.9 percent (as of 2006), which means roughly one out of every four Filipino families is poor. I then point out that this also implies that three out of four are not poor. Thus, to wipe out poverty, we need only one in every three taxpayer Filipino families to earn enough to help one poor family get out of poverty. Perhaps, however, if we take our efforts to combat poverty to this individual ("micro") level of caring and sharing, we could be much more successful at reducing poverty in our midst, as against the more grandiose macro-level programs that governments in known for.

Macro interventions

What would it take to help lift a poor family out of poverty? We all know the saying attributed to the Chinese philosopher Confucius: Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.

Outright dole-outs, of the kind government has lately been handing out a lot of, are clearly merely stop-gap measures and will not reduce poverty in the long run. Thus, we've also seen a plethora of poverty-reduction programs that attempt to provide the things expected to enable a long-term lifting: improved education and health services, microfinance and livelihood ventures, housing, safe water and sanitation, and so on. These things have figured in the government plans, programs and annual budgets for decades, and yet widespread poverty has persisted, and reducing poverty has remained the country's foremost challenge. Indeed, poverty actually worsened since 2003, even in the face of supposedly record economic growth—giving that unparalleled economic growth does not automatically provide the solution either.

Teaching to fish

On a micro level, what would a willing family need to do to "teach another family to fish?" The late Jesse Hind Ruiz used to profess that having at least one family graduate in a family would surely get it out of poverty, and thus unravel the critical importance of widely available education up to the tertiary level. For those who can afford it, a concrete way of helping, then, is to support a promising child all the way through school all the way to the tertiary level, whether college or vocational/technical training as appropriate. My own father had done so almost all of his professional life and so through his investment, and his reaped the satisfaction of seeing his sponsored kids uplift their lives and their families' well-being and standard of living.

Gawad Kalinga has done laudable in the critical entry point. Founder Tony Meloto espouses the sometimes-but-true you give poor people middle-class surroundings, they begin to have middle-class dreams. Indeed, the barrier often keeping many of the poor from uplifting their lives is their own selves, when they keep their aspirations low. A foreign colleague told me of a conversation he had with the young son of his Filipina maid, when, when asked what he hoped to be when he grew up, unhesitatingly replied that he wanted to be a driver just like his father, his own dear, my colleague remarked, that is among Filipinos remains poor.

Still another concrete way of helping it to equip a poor family with the means (including skills, values and financial capital) to start and sustain a livelihood enterprise. But time and again, governments and nongovernment organizations get a raised record of success when they try to do this on mass for groups of beneficiaries. My own view is that such initiatives will more likely achieve lasting outcomes when there is a one-to-one mentoring relationship involved, such as what a personal family-to-family based-bonding involvement would provide.

Sharing the Cross

This kind of direct involvement, in my mind, is key. We tend to focus on the monetary and overlook the great depths who can and are willing to share their greatest treasure, big in their sharing when they are willing to share their time, their gifts and suffering of those whom they help. True sharing, in other words, goes both ways. I'm convinced that this is the ingredient that has made Gawad Kalinga—such fire set only in the Philippines but overseas as well. When people are urged to share their wonderful marketing gifts and talents by literally helping build homes alongside those who will receive them, sharing is brought to a totally different level from simply writing out a check or one's business charity. Giving a scholarship directly to one's chosen poor child and talking to them constantly and in-videoconference in his/her progress through the years is quite different from sending a regular contribution to a scholarship-granting foundation. An entrepreneurial family that hand-holds a poor family-to-earning and growing an enterprise of their own. Also, genuine sharing in sharing their just pledging a portion of their profits to a livelihood development NGO.

When a climates-based organization I am part of sought to close Christmas churches into our mass by asking small church to donate a large sum, I suggested that they go beyond that by urging the church members to actually come to our beneficiary area in Albay, Isabela and Aurora. That way they could share first hand in the pain of those whose lives they are helping rebuild. Only then do our Christmas celebrations truly be the Feast of Jesus Christ, which is the true meaning of caring and sharing to Christmas love. This, to my mind, could very well be the missing element in our poverty-reduction efforts of these years.

(COMMENT: website // cbautista@pmrcc.edu)

BPI taps . . . From page B1

In the Philippines, Prudential operates the 5th biggest life insurance company in assets...The Life Insurance Corp. [The Life Ltd]—which pioneered in this market the variable unit-linked (VUL) insurance products, a hybrid between life insurance and mutual funds. A life insurance product becomes "variable" when the policy value at any time is directly linked to the value of the underlying investment funds at that time.

"In every market it's in, Prudential wants to be among the top three players. In this is not a surprise," an insurance industry expert said.

Prudential chief executive Mark Tucker announced in London in October last year that the Bank's group was interested in ASA's assets in Asia.

The life insurance businesses of the Ayala and Prudential groups are roughly about the same in terms of assets since as of 31.2 billion each as of end-2007, based on data from the Insurance Commission.

Ayala's Insular Insurance business, on the other hand, is fulfilled into BPI, which pioneered bancassurance, or the cross-selling of insurance products through a bank. BPI, Insular Asia's other bank and the third biggest in the Philippines in assets, is seen by stock analysts as a strong bet in holding for Philippine's recovery given its strong balance sheet. It has the largest market capitalization among Philippine banks at P138 billion.

Jobs present at Clark, CDC says

By Amy R. Remo

DESPITE HUGE JOB CUTS worldwide, employment opportunities abound in the Clark Freeport as companies continue to invest in the former US military installation.

In a statement last week, Clark Development Corp. president Rodolfo B. Reuben disclosed that as many as 3,000 new jobs are available due to the recent signing of four new lease agreements.

"Both local and international firms continue to eye Clark for investments, thus ensuring strong job opportunities," Mr. Reuben added.

The CDC chief also clarified a report, which claimed that more than 1,200 employees have been laid off from Clark and that 40,000 more workers were expected to lose their jobs this year.

Reuben said that from November 2008 to Jan. 15, 2009, only 1,378 workers from 12 firms have been affected by the financial crisis.

He said the affected workers were mostly contractual employees hired during peak seasons to meet increased demand. Of the 1,378 workers displaced, 60 percent were temporary layoffs, 38 percent were permanent, while the remaining 18 percent were phased layoffs.

Of the 12 companies, six are into garments manufacturing, four in information and communications technology and two are from the industrial sector.

The two industrial firms, Richcabel Metal, have permanently closed down but only 50 employees were affected.

According to Reuben, the figures reflected only 2 percent of the total employment figure of Clark, which boasts of a 37,799-strong workforce as of January 2009.

Earlier, the CDC reported that the employment figure here has breached the 37,000 mark, with 3,000 workers added last year.

Reuben said his optimism was anchored on strong investor performance as shown by reports from stakeholders who continue to hold dialogue and consultations with the CDC.

"To address the effects of the world financial crisis, the CDC is working hand in hand with its locators and investors through the continuous holding of dialogue, libration of their regular consultations with Clark stakeholders to continue to improve our services," Reuben said.

Reuben cited Clark's proximity to Subic and the presence of infrastructure and facilities like the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) and the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) as advantages amid the financial crisis.

"Our major advantage of Clark is its Free port status plus the special economic zone at the Subic Bay Valley giving investors a low 5-percent tax rate," Reuben stressed.

Gov't given go-ahead to tap $200-M WB loan

By Michelle V. Barros

THE BANGKO SENTRAL ng Pilipinas has given the government the green light to tap the $200-million loan offered by the World Bank, which will help ensure the poor's access to food.

The loan, equivalent to about P9.2 billion, will be disbursed by the World Bank under its "Food Crisis Response Development Policy Operation" program, which is intended to help mitigate problems related to food access of the poor.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the loan would carry an annual interest rate equivalent to six-month US dollar Libor plus 20 basis points.

The loan will be payable in 25 years, including a 10-year grace period.

Tetangco said the dollar inflow resulting from the said other foreign currency-denominated loans pinpointed by the government this year, would help boost the country's balance of payments.

The government will use part of the World Bank loan to extend its conditional cash transfer (CCT) program, under which it grants subsidies to selected consumers, through the Department of Finance and the World Bank, had inked a memorandum of agreement on the proposed loan.

The program requires recipient families to send children to school and have their members regularly visit health centers.

A portion of the money will also be used to fund programs that will strengthen countermeasures aiming combat terrorist agencies to address problems related to hunger.

Prior to the BSP's approval, the government had set aside P2.5 billion in its 2009 budget to help poor families to help them meet their food requirements. The program requires recipient families to send children to school and have their members regularly visit health centers.

Introducing an entry level, Yet high performance projector for only
P 28,000.00!
SD210U
CALL FOR DEMO AND FREEBIES
MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
MULTI-MEDIA LCD / DLP PROJECTOR
DLP
LCD
LINK WORTH INTERNATIONAL INC.
Tel. Nos.: 810-4301 • 813-0838 • 812-4870 • 843-2078

riverview
Resort & Conference Center
Calamba ... in the heart of Laguna
P1,50 - Jr. Junior Room
P1,750 - Jr. Executive Room
P2,250 - Executive Room
P 980 - Platinum
P 750 - Gold
P 595 - Silver

VOICE AMPLIFIER
TAKSTAR DA-200
P2,500

TeleEye
www.1eeye.com
Call for FREE DEMO

WE'LL FIX IT FAST!
Authorized distributor of Hewlett Packard peripheral products
Main Office: Lower Ground, David I Building, SM Shoe Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos.: 725-7031 / 724-5823 / 723-4894

DEALERS ARE WELCOME!
IP CAMERA
STAR VALUE INTRODUCES
360°
SECURITY SOLUTIONS REVOLUTION
DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDER
BIOMETRIC AUTHENTICATION ACCESS CONTROL

From L to R - Mr. Jon Garcia, Project Manager of Philippine Farmers Bank; Mr. Rosalio Alava Jr. Chairman of Philippine Farmers Bank; Mr. Robin Lok, Country Manager of Misys Philippines Inc.; Atty. Nestor Romulo Cuenco from Philippine Farmers Bank and Mr. Jhone Tan Regional Marketing Manager of Misys Asia Pacific.

Misys and Philippine Farmers Bank Contract Signing Ceremony

On December 10, 2008 Philippine Farmers Bank has signed a license agreement with Misys Philippines, Inc. to implement Misys Equation to all its branches to strengthen its lending business and increase its ability to respond to and service its customers in the country. Philippine Farmers Bank selects Misys because of its track record in the region and its ability to support banks growth their business. With a series of very successful proof of concepts and demonstrations, the bank's management team was very comfortable with Misys' capabilities and selected the company to provide the solution.

"Maximize your Dollar and Peso Growth Potential"
Invest in our Single Pay and Regular Pay Variable Products

Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Valuation Date 01/29/09	Valuation Date 01/30/09
PELAC Dollar Bond Fund	1.3598	1.3693
PELAC Global Bond Fund	1.1413	1.1434
PELAC Peso Fixed Income Fund	1.0479	1.0421
PELAC Peso Equity Fund	0.8898	0.8918
PELAC Balanced Fund	0.7993	0.7980
Principal Protected Fund	0.9771	0.9771
Principal Protected Fund 2	0.9859	0.9859
Principal Protected Fund 3	0.9789	0.9789

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Kanyang Mga Gandaming Alayan
www.landbank.com

San Miguel beer unit posts 25% profit jump

By Doris C. Dumlao

NET PROFITS SOARED UP BY 24% Miguel Corp.'s flagship beer unit San Miguel Brewery Inc. last year surged 25.3 percent on higher beer sales and improved cost management.

SMB said its net income after tax for FY2008 billion from P6.81 billion in 2007. The company attributed this to a "combination of operating leverage and a tighter focus on our cost end, with good progress on efficiency and volume generating programs."

"Brand expansion initiatives, increased consumer and trade promotions enabled the company to further strengthen its market position. As a result of these efforts, San Mig Light, Red Horse and Gold Eagle all grew in terms of volumes, alongside robust volumes from flagship San Miguel Pale Pilsen, which launched its bigger 330-milliliter pet in 2008," the company reported.

Taps HSBC, DBP for bond float

"The annual beer fest was transformed into the country's longest-running fiesta with nationwide events lined up during the October-to-June month run," it added.

Full year-audited 2008 net sales revenues went up 11 percent to P40.6 billion, supported by a 4-percent growth in sales volumes. The rise in sales volume was in line with the pace of expansion in the domestic economy.

SMB's sales reduction for 2008 reached 174.3 million cases.

On the other hand, its operating income rose 17 percent to P15.6 billion from P12.3 billion the prior year.

SMB is the biggest producer of beer in the Philippines with a total market share of more than 90 percent. It has five breweries and a highly developed distribution system consisting approximately 477,000 retail outlets.

The share price of SMB has risen 21 percent in the stock market in January alone. It has a market capitalization of P238 billion based on Friday's closing price of P9.50 a share.

Meanwhile, SMB San mandated British bank HSBC and the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines to arrange a P40 billion domestic bond number debut.

Banking sources said the offering, targeted by end-February, would likely generate interest given the company's strong corporate credits, ample liquidity in the financial system and the dearth of high-quality, peso-denominated domestic bond issues.

Proceeds from the offer will be used by SMB to pay its forthcoming acquisition of the San Miguel beer brands as well as other intellectual property rights and real estate assets from its parent company.

PLDT eyes ₱3B in local borrowing

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEphone Co. is planning to borrow at least P3 billion from the local market to pay existing debt and fund capital expenditures.

"We indicated that we will tap the peso market on an opportunistic basis. Hence looking at a potential P3 billion borrowing for PLDT or higher depending on the market," PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno said.

PLDT is considering capital expenditures of P27-P28 billion this year, the same level it spent in 2008, its chair Manuel Pangilinan said Friday.

PLDT and its Hong Kong-based consulting shareholder First Pacific Co Ltd. together will spend at least P58 billion over the next two years on projects in telecommunications, healthcare and road and water distribution infrastructure even as they see a tougher business picture this year.

Growth in PLDT subscriber base will be slightly less than the five million in net additions last year because of difficult economic conditions, Pangilinan said.

"It's going to be a tough year," he said, but the management of PLDT and its mobile phone service subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. is "determined to improve 2009."

"First Pacific regards 2009 as a year of two halves," Pangilinan said. "In the first half, we are seeing investment values driven by a commodity environment, with equity and debt products motivated by volatile. At some point in the year, these economic valuations should provide attractive opportunities as the growth dialogues and deleveraging pressures ease."

PLDT has outstanding debts of ₱196 million this year.

In its financial report as of Sept. 30, PLDT and its consolidated free cash flow stood at P39 billion. Consolidated capital expenditures were at P18.6 billion for the first nine months, with capital expenditures for 2008 expected to reach approximately P27 billion, a reduction from the earlier estimate of P28.3 billion.

The group's consolidated gross debt as of Sept. 30 stood at $1.5 billion with net debt at approximately $900 million. PLDT said its debt maturities were well spread out with the bulk of debt repayments (approximately 62 percent of total gross debt) due in and after 2012. About 89 percent of consolidated debt is denominated in dollars.

Despite the economic downturn, PLDT is poised to earn at least P6 billion in core net earnings in 2008, which does not include one-time gains. Fourth quarter is seasonally a strong quarter for PLDT due to the higher volume of overseas calls and text messages related to the Christmas season.

In the first nine months, PLDT had consolidated core net income, net of exceptional items, one is P27.8 billion, 3-percent higher than the P26.4 billion in the same period in 2007.

BSP ...

From page B1

year. The NPL ratio hit as much as 18 percent during the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

Central bank officials also said they take pride in the fact that the country's banking sector has proven to be resilient given the global crisis where the United States and other advanced economies suffered financial meltdowns.

But while saying that the banking sector was generally in good shape, the BSP also noted that the business of banking largely hinged on public confidence. The BSP said it could not stress any further how the stability of the banking industry is sensitive to malicious and baseless rumors, such as the case where alleged failures of some banks.

PTT to expand network in RP to 200 stations

Thai company plans to increase presence in Luzon, Visayas

By Abigail L. Ho

BANGKOK, THAILAND—PTT Public Co. Ltd., Thailand's largest oil firm, plans to expand its retail station network in the Philippines to 200 from the current 83 soon.

In a briefing here last Friday, PTT executive vice president for commercial and international marketing Anirudh Pothikamjorn said the oil company, through subsidiary PTT Philippines Corp., would be strengthening its presence in Luzon and Visayas.

There were no plans as of the moment to enter Mindanao, however, due to lack of demand, he said.

He added that PTT was also looking at going into nonoil businesses in the country to boost its very thin margins from petroleum product sales.

"We'll invest in retail businesses, but that will depend on the size of the land that we will get (when) we put up (our new stations)," he said.

Retail businesses refer to its station convenience stores, as well as lease of space in service stations to companies, similar to what are being offered by Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Chevron Philippines Inc. and Total (Philippines) Corp. in their stations as operators.

PTT Philippines retail engineer Rodolfo Ilroan said the oil firm has started dabbling in retail business by getting subcontractors for its gas terminals, Pampanga, etc.

PTT also planned to have refineries in its Eden Modex, Quezon City site.

For this year, PTT Philippines president and chief executive Helgeny Pinsupa-pradon earlier said the oil firm had earmarked P800 million for its retail network expansion and related marketing activities.

He said this investment was "part of company policy," and would be done even after incurring a net loss of P400 million to P600 million last year.

"We suffered monetary losses in 2008, but we believe 2009 will be stable. Crude prices will not be falling or increasing too much," he said.

For 2009, he said PTT Philippines plans to boost its service stations network to 90 from 84.

More sober RP growth seen

By Noemi V. Dorotan

PUBLIC ASSURANCE By:

PROVIDENT PLANS
International Corporation

Amidst the present predicament of some players of the Pre-Need industry, **Provident Plans International Corporation** remains dedicated to its commitments to Planholders and clients. **Provident Plans International Corporation** has been in existence for 35 years of excellent, if not superior, rendition of professional service to its planholders.

Since its inception, **Provident Plans International Corporation** has never failed to provide its Planholders the promised services.

For year 2008 alone, we granted benefits amounting to over One Hundred Thirty (130) Million Pesos to all our availing planholders.

Our trust funds remain intact, are highly liquid and very capable of meeting future obligations. These funds are invested locally, majority are in secured investments and managed by reputable trustee banks such as BPI, ING, UCPB, China Bank, Union Bank and Bank of Commerce.

Provident Plan's advantage among others is that our Educational Plan offers pre-determined benefits and is not the open-ended type that has affected the operation of other pre-need companies.

Provident Plans International Corporation has always been in compliance with all the regulatory requirements imposed by Securities and Exchange Commission.

Management of **Provident Plans International Corporation** assures the public that the company remains committed more than ever to its mandate of providing its valued planholders a secured future.

PROVIDENT PLANS
International Corporation

Unlike other investment instruments, like stocks and bonds, which are subject to price fluctuations, time deposits are fixed-income investments that guarantee the safety of your principal investment. Your money will grow at a fixed rate of interest, regardless of market conditions.

Time deposits are also insured by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) for up to P500,000 per depositor per bank.

Time deposits are ideal for those who want to preserve their capital and earn a steady income. Interest rates are usually higher than those of savings accounts, and you can choose from a variety of terms to suit your needs.

Time deposits are also a good way to save for a specific goal, such as a down payment on a house or a car. You can choose a term that matches your goal, and you will know exactly how much you will have at the end of the term.

Time deposits are a safe and reliable way to save your money. They are insured by the PDIC, and they offer a fixed rate of interest. If you are looking for a safe and reliable way to save your money, time deposits are a good option.

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

THE NEW Vaio devices seem like manly cases for urban sophisticates.

Sony unleashes 'pocket style' PC

'If there were a beauty contest for laptops, the Vaio P would have been crowned queen'

By Raquel P Gamez

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS giant Sony has finally come out with its own popular Atom-powered portable PC.

First showcased at the recently held Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Sony Vaio P is a stunning eight-inch display ultraportable that runs on Atom Z520 and Atom Z530.

Both single-core Atom processors belong to Intel's 45-nanometer architecture called the Silverthorne.

On the other hand, the Atom N270 found in many netbooks in the market today is part of the Diamondville 45-nm architecture.

The Atom Z520 features a clock speed of 1.33 GHz, a bus speed of 533 MHz, L2 Cache size of 512 kB, and thermal design power (TDP) of only 2 watts.

The Atom Z530 features a clock speed of 1.6 GHz, bus speed of 533 MHz, L2 cache size of 512 kB and TDP of only 2 watts.

Sony Philippines officials zeroed away from describing the Vaio P as a mere netbook and centered a new classification here—"a pocket style PC designed for people on the go."

"With the Vaio P, we at Sony propose a new lifestyle of taking the PC outdoors," said Zhenkie Lipayon, marketing officer for Vaio, Sony Philippines. "With the Vaio P, we'd like to bring the fun and enjoyable PC experience to the consumers."

With a price tag of P49,000 (for the Vaio P11) and P69,000 (for the Vaio P13), the new devices could hardly make it to the category of netbooks...crafted dream laptops that are supposed to be affordable to the masses.

Although the Vaio P lacks the features that would have made it into a full-fledged laptop, Sony still believes that those using these devices should feel good about owning a hand-turning piece of hardware—a nice conversation piece that may double as a fashion statement when taken out of the bag.

Almost the size of a business envelope and relatively thin (245 mm x 19.8 mm x 120 mm) and light (594 grams with SSD and 629 grams with HDD), the Vaio P is small enough to slip into a pocket or handbag.

Although it features a screen size of just 8 inches (LED backlit ultra-wide display 1600 x 768 resolution), the Vaio P nonetheless possesses a comfortable size keyboard.

Vaio P's body is made up of magnesium, adopts is also found in other expensive notebooks. Both models (Vaio P13 and Vaio P13) come in premium glossy colors: garnet red, silicon green, obsidian black, and crystal white.

The Vaio P also features a full flat outline, narrow-less bottom, a tongue hinge, and capsule shape design.

As an Atom-powered PC, the Vaio P features Intel's Graphics Media Accelerator 500, 2 GB DDR2 memory (not expandable), wireless connection (Draft N, Bluetooth, a solid state drive 364 GB (for the Vaio P13 model) or hard drive 160 GB (for the Vaio P13 model), and webcam.

The polymer battery life is up to three hours.

THE ATOM-POWERED portable PC can be quite a conversation piece.

Most ports that can be found in traditional netbooks are unanimously auctioned to make up for the slim design. So the only ports that can be found on a Vaio P unit are two USBs, memory stick and SD card slot, headphone jack (Vaio P has integrated a mini camcorder function), and mini-VGA connector for secondary display.

Vaio P's accessories also reek of elegance: a leather carrying case and carrying pouch, and a Bluetooth laser mouse with colors to match the different Vaio Ps.

The Vaio P comes equipped with Windows Vista Home Premium for the Vaio P13 and Home Basic for the Vaio P11) and the proprietary Vaio hardware buttons and software, like the Instant Mode that automatically launches Sony's Xross Media Bar interface.

It also has the Window management utility that automatically arranges all windows in the display area with just a press of the button.

If there were a beauty contest for laptops, the Vaio P would surely have been crowned queen.

But is the new Sony technological wonder laptop just another pretty face—a dolled up "netbook" with the price jacked up?

You be the judge.

The Vaio P can be ordered on the website of Sony Philippines (www.sony.com.ph/vaiop).

Artificial Intelligence -Data Mining
for Science & Business
ESSENTIALS

YOUR ENTIRE DATA CENTRE IN ONE AFFORDABLE PACKAGE.
intel Xeon Powerful. Efficient.
The IBM BladeCenter® S is another industry first from IBM. This single solution can replace an entire data centre. It integrates your servers, storage, networking and management tools in one simple setup. Powered by Intel® Xeon® processors, this energy efficient BladeCenter S is easy to consolidate and reduces the cost of data management.
From the people and Business Partners of IBM. Innovation made easy.
GET YOUR IBM BLADECENTER OR IBM SYSTEM x SERVER TODAY!
Php 345,000.00
GET AN ADDITIONAL IBM SYSTEM STORAGE!
ibm.com/ph/offers
1800-1888-1426 or (632) 995 2426
ibm express advantage

Symantec reveals IT security challenges

Text and photo by Charlie E. Bolton

THEY ARE CALLED, AMONG other things, "millennials," referring to the new generation of young office workers who are known for their tech-savviness, highly personable character, as well as their ability to complete their daily tasks while engaging in IM (instant messaging), texting friends and checking their Facebook account—all the while listening to their iPod.

Although their bosses will laud them for being able to quickly adapt to cutting-edge technology, dealing with millennials is also becoming a top challenge for a number of companies, according to a leading security provider, Symantec Corp.

Millennials are challenging the status quo with regard to office environment, like wanting more control over their desktop PCs, collaborating and boosting productivity tools. A lot of them have in fact succeeded, allowing them to wreak away and rummage leisurely locked down business tools, while others permitted them to access their Web-based personal e-mail, Facebook or MySpace," said Mark Bregman, executive VP and chief technology officer of Symantec Corp.

MARK Bregman

Blurred

Indeed, millennials have blurred the line between personal and corporate control of technology in their belief that they should be entitled to use whatever applications, devices or technology they would like, regardless of issues or corporate IT policies.

"The challenge now is how to find the right balance between employees' needs and IT policies, not to security provider, our task is to make sure such employee practices will not expose businesses to huge risks—in data loss, compliance issues, legal implications, and so on," explained Bregman.

He added that while companies are giving their people enough control to allow them to innovate and tweak to suit their personality and skill level, companies should also be protected against confidential information leakage.

Concerns

"The IT landscape of consumerized technologies—iPhone/iPods, USB drives—for more collaborative, greater efficiencies, the sharing of information, and more productivity. However, they are also creating new security and information leakage concerns," noted Bregman.

He said that social networking websites—a favorite of millennials—are fast becoming a key target for cyber fraud, especially now that the world is in the grip of an economic crisis.

"Attackers may send e-mail, seemingly from a reputable credit card company or financial institution, that requests account information or provides the ability to easily get a mortgage or refinance. When users respond with the requested information, attackers can use it to gain access to the accounts," warned Bregman.

He added that companies and their IT organizations are also concerned since attackers may be able to find ways to steal employees' passwords and obtain access to companies' computer systems.

Bregman reported that, to protect companies and their employees in these new and emerging threats, Symantec is now developing new, comprehensive data-centric methods including reputation-based security approaches.

This approach uses a system of cataloging, which looks at the profile of programs on the computers of Symantec's customers, categorizing the "reputation" of these applications and coming to a judgment on whether the application is risky or not.

"Expect Symantec that within the coming weeks or months, the company will introduce new or updated products that will further help classify and protect a company's most sensitive information so that it can ensure that the company's chief information officer will be able to know how this information is being used and stored," promised Bregman.

BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor
Marjo Quimpo-Cipico

Great Deals for Business
Simply bring your business permit to any Globe Center.
Call 730-1288 for more details.
Globe Business

WHAT'S INSIDE

How we spend, save may help us survive hard times /B2-3

How we learn: Lessons for employee development /B2-3

10 ways to earn extra income /B2-4

PERSONAL FINANCE

A job crisis survival guide

IN TIMES of crisis, it pays to know your rights as a worker.

By Ms. Salve Digilio
Inquirer

YOU COULD SAY PREPARING for extreme uncertainty sets that corporate downsizing and downsizing are escalating it already a bit late.

In a perfect world, we should have already drawn up clever financial escape hatch es and different levels of fallback strategies to survive possible unemployment.

But it's also human nature to party while libido like chevrolets build subs when the rain is shining. Unfortunately, the rain is gone and rain is falling. Just last week, Intel has announced it was closing its more than two-decades-old plant in the Philippines, moving 1,000 employees jobless...and does not join the list pleasing.

Panasonic, Motorola Philippines Semiconductor and many others announced they were either totally shutting down plants or downsizing. Official figures from the Department of Labor and Employment show that 70,000 Filipinos have already been retrenched and 24,000 have suffered from wage cuts as of Jan. 29. Hundreds more are losing their jobs every day, said Labor Secretary Marianito Roque.

Globally, the figure look

AJOK B2-3

Peach
Protect Your Documents. Laminate It!
Peach Laminating Systems
Always Put The Best On Glass.

Visit any authorized dealers for details:
HONDA

Step into a better banking experience
DAU BRANCH NOW OPEN
Dau Access Rd., Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga
Maybank

The hammer of corruption

POLITICAL CORRUPTION IS not just frustrating business; it is damaging the nation. It robs illegitimate personal gain from bribery, extortion, corruption, nepotism, favoritism, graft and embezzlement. It is callous and seeking others' means to politics is expected with limited transparency and competition to promote and protect narrow interests.

Intentional wrongdoing

Consequently, it has robbed society's prosperity and crowded its institutions. Its intentional wrongdoing has derailed the country from performing or conducting itself to optimized by the Constitution.

Because politics is our country's daily diet, our social, economic and cultural ruin-ed landscapes testify to corruption's fiscal impact on them.

Last year, the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) issued a statement supporting the call of then archbishop Jose Ledesma to CBCP president Archbishop Angel Lagdameo to "confront corruption and rebuild our country economically, socially and politically."

Out of sight, out of mind

The bishops' clarion call got the people's attention. But in time we as a new issue arose, it got out of sight and out of mind.

Before it did, MAP issued a public statement expressing its deep concern that the scale and depth of corruption has badly shattered trust and confidence in the country between it the way the government has become. One proof for it is the comparative inflow of foreign direct investments and foreign aid to the Philippines vis-à-vis its Asian neighbors, which is a harbinger of what the future get.

The world has been increasingly critical of the thriving culture of corruption in government with near-total impunity. The consequences of corruption are clearly affecting the country's competitiveness, business growth, and capacity to survive. It is wrecking a powerful, once-promising public order and safety, sending the rule of law and destroying society's moral fabric.

And there is no let up.

Corruption indices from Transparency International and the World Bank, for instance, come to a palpable direction: Once in where the Philippines was measured 16 years ago, now just a question perennially away from the bottom. Yet, despite the consequences, the governments remains oblivious, apathetic or insensible, leaving self-good over the national interest.

Transformation

To stop the spreading malignancy and save itself from a dying shrub, the nation must use its bodies to transform itself into a nation of an economic upright citizens. But does how can a society wracked with social cancer heal itself? Through radical treatments? By whom? Alternative options? In what ways?

Corporate governance panel-listeners in the private sector who ensure ethics, transparency and accountability in the workplace, are vital human resources that can be harnessed to help transform the country.

For example, MAP's growing circle of Management Men of the Year could link up with Action Philippines, Gilding Pack, TODAY, and alumni of other national and international awards to campaign for good governance in their respective fields.

Such an alliance could also reinforce the Coalition Against Corruption (CAC) composed of organizations from the business sector, civil society and the Church. Together they could further strengthen society's ethical backbone and promote greater public participation in governance in a vigorous bid to clean the creeping tide of corruption, apathy and helplessness.

The absence of effort by society to steal system thereof, to effect self-change involves inconvenience. Most, societies make it so difficult to change. Yet, making your spending and investment decisions in the world's most ethical companies, for example, is a good option," says Tabuteg.

Or, you can go to the movies twice a week, perhaps, or eat at a restaurant instead. If you are depressed and want to drink beer, remember that it costs P22 per bottle," Tabuteg adds.

5. Stop overpriced cable health insurance and don't scribble on insurance premiums. There may seem like more than you can do whether in a down economy, but the truth is, you can't afford to not have a decent healthcare plan and prevention from death and disability especially when the monthly paycheck has stopped. That rarely, find out from your human resources department if the company healthcare plan, which is normally cheaper and has better terms than individual plans, can be continued.

6. If you're having difficulty meeting loan payments, don't hide from your creditors. Of course, dodging a relentless collector who might be wondering why your check for tuition for payments is bouncing. Being forthright with your financial situation can ease matters, because it shows you have taken responsibilities seriously. Buy excuse swiftly from doomed to have borrowed the public's trust like a malignant tumor, more or to bail from when corruption is not only a crime but also an act of treason.

No borders

Corruption respects no borders. Rich and poor societies alike are affected, their corruption differentiated only by the sizes of their national coffers, that is, by the ravaging and weaknesses of their institutions, systems, processes and peoples. But if we inhabit the Hall of Shame, for now, the blue merits a Lifetime Achievement award.

Its inexhaustible reign of greed and moral loss led to global chaos, inflicting widespread misery and on people throughout the world. It's not the first time either that they were up the planet, to include global warming. Because they embrace the rules that they will swallow hook and corrupt themselves when it doesn't suit them, hell has been known more and again for it politicial or financial, the consequences are always deadly.

Black hole

MAP, in her abuse or as part of a growing coalition, should continually influence against practices that undermine good governance, hamper excellence and corrupt. Because. What is good for the nation is beneficial for business. The book enhancer would be to abet the cities, increase risk and inevitably sink deeper in a black hole that the country can ill-afford.

For the Philippines to have a better quality of life, the line must be drawn on the sand now.

(The article reflects the personal opinions of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is a member of the MAP Board of governors and president of Joyce Group Foundation Inc. Feedback at mapf@bdbelines.com.ph. Previous articles, please visit map.org.ph.)

A job crisis survival guide

Turn to page B2-1

even more alarming. The International Labor Organization reports the economic crunch to add 50 million people to the ranks of the unemployed that year.

"The outlook is bleak, even official reading the papers. (Many companies) are affected (by) the degree of exposure to... Manufacturing is certainly affected in a huge way. I thought that services would be spared but they are not. The serious thing is that some are not really affected that much but nevertheless take steps to cut people because the economy is creating a cost of their own," says Ishmael Quimbebas, assistant dean of JRU Law School and a seasoned human resource practitioner.

If there is a time when losing one's financial edge is a no-no, this is it. Losing a job doesn't just feel less of a regular paycheck. It can also affect losing that health insurance you've never really appreciated before. It can mean giving up gas, clothing and representation allowances, not to mention your sense of self-worth and financial ability to satisfy your spouse.

"Filipinos are reactive in only have nine months worth of savings. What if you don't even have nine months?" says Alvin Tabuteg, personal money management coach and registered financial planner.

Here's your survival guide for those hard months:

1. Know your rights. Companies have an their disposal many tricks to lower the cost of cutting jobs.

They can call it "retrenchment," instead of "redundancy" and save 30 percent in separation pay. Instead of getting one month for every year of service, you get only half a month if it's a retrenchment.

Don't forget, however, that manipulating is a union can exercise its power to stave that in check with your union officers.

If you are being asked to stop work by an more than six months, the company doesn't have to pay a single peso in separation pay and all benefits are suspended. Then again, you have a job after six months, although two can never be sure until when the company will keep you after that.

Employers should have at least a month's notice before they are given the pink slip. "The labor department is given a copy of that notice. It gives the employment and also the employee can initiate an inquiry on whether the company has complied that it really needs to lay-off workers," says Quimbebas.

Experts warn companies to use the ongoing economic crisis as an excuse for sacking people but don't take their word for it. Under the law, before companies can send workers packing, they need to prove that they have done everything necessary to keep the company alive, like sending workers in shifts and cutting costs. Companies also need to prove that losses are significant, substantial and they need to look those up with audited financial statements.

2. Keep your current job. If you find out that you've been given the boot due to the tough economic environment but the company hires someone else for a similar position, that's foul play. "That's hateful, and you can go after the company," says Carlo Catalan, senior partner at the Catalan and Bihasale Law Offices.

3. Keep your current job. We all sort of mildly get fed up with our jobs from time to time. It's called getting burned out. This year is not the time to let that feeling get the most of you. Don't be a good employee; be exceptional because losing indispensable keeps your neck off the chopping block. It's easy to get lost in the daily to-do list, but the one thing that will keep you in the roster is if you make a stand what it takes for you to be a resource-maker for the company. That's always the bottom line. And reflected you this, never underestimate anyone. What if the fat person you sit in becomes your boss after a merger, then where would you be?

3. Start off that vacated and keep your current list clear. Scoping for the best local expecting the vacuum means you better get that resume dusted off and updated. If you're correct list is on your computers at the office, limit it up and keep your eyes open. Update it on your own time. Everybody talks about networking, but few people actually spend time doing it.

Meanwhile, you can get the best job offers through your family, friends, ex-lovers, everybody you know. Online job searches are good resources too," says Tabuteg.

4. Feed that rumpus-penny fund like it's a voracious pet. Start cracking your spending and you'll find ways to save some pesos even if you think you're stretched already. Postpone big purchases or vacations and keep your priorities straight. Be very careful with swiping that credit card. Feeling depressed because of all the gloomy news can cause you to see plastic like a drug-bearing stuff to feel good about yourself. Don't do it.

THE 10,000TH of job seekers is expected to further increase this year.

Turn to page B2-2

FEATURES IN BRIEF

Mighty inks MOA

MIGHTY CORP. (SEE BELOW) signed a memorandum of agreement with Mactan Economic Zone Authority (MEZA), Team Manila Incorporated (TMI) and Toronto to improve the livelihood of tobacco farmers in rural areas.

Under the MOA, Mighty Corp., headed by its chair and president Betty T. Ang-Garcia, will provide financial support to Team Manila and farmers cooperatives.

The farmers assistance will be used for 100 hectares of farming land for the production of an estimated 200 tons of tobacco for Mighty's export needs.

The project is expected to help members of the cooperative increase their income from tobacco farming.

Teams include investing in Real Estate Opportunities, Techniques & What Are Needed to Leave before Investing, Making Big Money in Distressed Properties, Intensified Economic Principles of Real Estate and How to Maximize Income of Rental Properties.

For schedule of activities, registrations, Brian Institute may be reached at 8488191 or 7958019 and 0915-4259174/ 0921-4839431 or by e-mail at or brian@quantis.net.ph or visit brian.philippines.com.

ECHOtouch lectures

THE ECHOTOUCH ESSENTIALS' lecture series at ECHOtouch Sustainable Lifestyle continues in February. With self-understanding, wellness and cultivating entrepreneurship as this month's themes, among the topics to be explored are weight, astrology, chakras, aromatherapy and coffee enlightenment talks.

Appearances are every Friday. Talks carry still be given for thousands and walk-takers St. Miles and Cubao Terrace, owners of Rancho Days in Tagaytay.

Old Jaime, founder of the Philippine Coffee Board and consultant and coaching entrepreneurs (CAE) advocate, will give two lectures on marketing entrepreneurship specific to coffee.

How to Put up a Coffee Shop on Feb. 17 is a final-hand showing of a coffee expert's secrets to making a business and not a cafe or a small enterprise serving good coffee.

Only 25 people will be accommodated at ECHOtouch store at the ground floor of Serendra's Piazza, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

For more coffee conference lectures, reservations and other requirements, e-mail Stephanie Wong at hello@echotouch.com or send an SMS to 0922-8218437.

How we spend, save may help us survive hard times

By Lilia Barbarona-Alvarez
Contributor

"CAN ACTUARS WITH HONEY (book) incorporate wisdom, and not just silliness."

The thought seems to stand as the world reels from an economic slump that has proved the wise for some benefits—warning signs that everybody should have learned for the struggle times ahead.

Frank Hanna, a leading Catholic entrepreneur and author of the book "What Your Money Means and How to Use It Well," says "true intent of us are and thoughtful enough in the way we behave with our money if we understand our money correctly, it becomes a force for good in our lives, rather than a source of anxiety or discomfort."

He argues that money is not a necessary evil.

"It is a gift from God that is frequently abused because of our lack of understanding of its proper use," he says.

The Filipino adage hoping merging harvest, maximizing maximization (when you're given a short blanket, learn how to curl up), and the habit that requires one to tighten one's belt (tumpingan) are extremely sensible and applicable.

Financial experts see one in saying that everyone should stay vigilant, stay live within (or better yet, below) your means, and put a stop to bad habits (like drinking and smoking) that drain your income and savings.

Here are some practical tips on how to prudently spend or save money:

+Think spending. Cut back on unnecessary by distinguishing between needs and wants.

+Pay your debts and don't spend money you don't have (Hint: to close on that credit card.)

+Stick to your budget. Those envelopes for—usually bills and expenses will help you manage your budget. Keep track of how much money is going out and how much is coming in and how much you have left.

+Set those lucky enough to have a job, save for emergencies. Fund that can cover basic living expenses for three to six months and expenses for illness or emergency. Its a good to save for this fund within a year.

+Consider your emergency fund a bill you have to settle. Spouse separate account just for this fund. Once you have enough for this fund, consider moving it to higher-yielding investments (such as time deposits or mutual funds) in a safe, low-risk account.

Despite the gloomy economic forecast, the good news is, Filipinos are a pliant and persevering lot. They're crisp if they have to or make do with what they have.

There sense of sacrifice—as in the case of overseas workers—for the welfare and well-being of loved ones escapes many Westerners.

There copes with the hard times and keep their morale by believing that things will turn around through sheer of hard work, prudent use of their resources, and trust in Divine Providence.

How we learn: Lessons for employee development

By Edsel P. Franco
Contributor

REMEMBERING THE DANCE OF A SHY song, figuring out how to make new software work, driving a car and acquiring a new skill—one of these activities involves the process of learning.

The ability to learn is one of humankind's most important gifts that differentiates us from lower forms of being. It allows us to adapt to changing surroundings and find solutions to increasingly complex problems. What and how we learn determines who or what we will become.

WORKPLACE WISDOM

USING a good mix of cognitive tools, most avatars that learners respond to become

GUAM&SIAGOR to the Philippine Airlie Kamp visit the new Convergys center in Bacolod. With Convergys chief Mathi Zarrela (right), she spoke with Convergys women owner agents about their careers and aspirations. Ramon was also interested in Convergys' employees and expansion plans. Convergys, a global leader in relationship management, has 15 contact centers in the Philippines—six in Metro Manila, three in Cebu City and one each in Bacolod City.

Differing learning styles

How do people learn?

A study was conducted by the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development to determine what is the Filipino adults' learning style and whether there is a difference in learning styles in terms of age, status and gender. The survey was administered to 223 students and 277 employees and professionals.

The results of the study revealed that learning style varies according to one's age and gender. It shows that the younger respondents are more reflective observers, who prefer self-study, while older respondents are more of active learners and experimenters.

Working respondents opt to learn with competitors and group interaction while students are more comfortable with learning by reading and listening to lectures.

In terms of gender, males prefer self-study and females prefer coaching.

The findings of this study affirm the importance of knowing what learning styles are most applicable to certain groups. This knowledge would help in the design and development of interventions and would make trainers more efficient and effective.

This also implies the need for trainers to be well-versed on the core principles of learning and reasons so they can adjust the training methods to their learning styles.

Empowering learners

The reality is, however, that it may be impossible to tailor fit all programs to meet the various styles of all learners. Then, using a good mix of approaches may ensure that learners respond to the development intervention.

The results also suggest the importance of skills to process observation and analysis and flexibility for trainers.

Being able to read your audience and determining whether they are involved in the learning process and being flexible in approaches and designs are vital to success as a trainer.

The findings also brought point to the need to go beyond training as a means for performance of learning to development. Clearly, while classroom training is still preferred by many, where people will gain more value and methods, such as coaching.

This suggests the need to explore non-training interventions such as readings, coaching, reward components, etc.

Second this, perhaps it is time that we incorporate training the learners to take more responsibility for their own development. Assisting learners to assess their own strengths and competencies as well as mapping out their development plan may, in the end, be the true embodiment of how learning responds to learner's needs and styles. After all, the true measurement of what learning approaches will work best are the learners themselves.

(The author is chair of the Department of Psychology, Ateneo de Manila University. To know more about learning methodologies that go beyond the classroom, attend the course COMED Advanced OD Series no. 3, entitled "Integrating Outdoor Experiential Learning in Leadership Development," on Feb. 26. For inquiries, contact Arlene COMED at 4259301 or arlene@edpublic.edu.ph.)

BUSINESS Monday

Baguio traders out to retrain retrenched workers, miners

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE CITY'S TOP businessmen are being harnessed by the Department of Labor and Employment to share their moneymaking expertise with retrenched workers of Texas Instruments Philippines Inc. (TIPI) and local miners.

Instead of panhiking, Baguio's labor force has been approaching the department to help link them up with business leaders, like Conrad Jose Benito Capuyan and McDonald's franchise owner Michael del Rosario, and lawyer Ana Dizon, DOLE Cordillera director.

Many displaced workers plan to invest in small businesses to tide them through a global recession, and are seeking advice from businesses "that work," she said.

Capuyan has created a brand name, "Strawberry," to accompany her signature ignore women, while Del Rosario, longs in an old Baguio business family that owns a fast-food chain, a hotel and supermarket.

Dizon said she was surprised by the behavior being exhibited by the region's affected labor force.

As of the end of 2008, 1,916 Cordillera workers had been classified by DOLE as affected by the global recession, records showed.

Displaced workers eager to learn new ways to earn a living

This means that the workers were either displaced due to retrenchment or had endured strained working hours and policies to ensure productivity and to keep their company afloat in times of crisis.

Tipi was the first American-led firm to shed 411 employees in late December and early January.

DOLE has been observing 1.3% employees of the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp. (LCMC) for signs of distress because the firm implemented shortened work weeks to cope with the low demand for metals.

Dizon said crisis miners approached DOLE last week it's seek advice about widening their job options.

"They wanted to be trained in electronics, plumbing ... should a retrenchment come in their mines," she said.

At least 79 retrenched Tipi workers have signed up for entrepreneurial workshop training, Dizon said.

"Many of the Tipi employees got help from churches packaged out of the layoffs and they may end up doing business in their communities," she said.

Tipi operations have already resumed, despite the closure of other Texas Instruments facilities in the United States and other countries, Dizon said.

"To me, that, at least, is a good sign because they are still getting orders," she said.

LCMC has also revised its work hours because of recent improvements in world metals prices, she said.

DOLE is organizing a speakers's bureau for "business-sharing" sessions with the displaced workers.

Dizon said the relative calm exhibited by the displaced workers was unnerving.

"They have not been panicky," she said. "They are not scared by the crisis. They want work."

TEXAS Instruments plant on Loakan Road in Baguio City

10 ways to earn extra income

Going into direct selling is one of the best ways to survive in today's depressed economy, says Avon's Briddon

TODAY'S ECONOMIC CRISIS has created challenging and troubling times for many Filipino families. As people struggle to make ends meet in the face of the credit crunch and rising food, education and housing expenses, many are looking for ways to not only earn more income, but also to make more money.

The thought of securing a second job in today's economy may sound daunting. However, there are many accessible, viable opportunities available that will help provide that needed supplemental income.

Here are 10 easy options:

1. Go into direct selling.—There are a number of direct selling companies that offer sound business opportunities. Avon, for instance, provides the opportunity to run a business from the home. And with its Avon Philippines website, which features a virtual brochure, you don't need to travel far to refer friends and friends of friends to check out Avon products online and just call you to place their order.

2. Earn money from your hobbies.—Turn your garden into a produce shop, put your wood-shop skills to good use, or offer scrapbooking services to friends and neighbors.

3. Put your musical talents to good use.—Can you play an instrument? Offer to play at small parties, or provide music lessons for a fee per hour.

4. Have a garage sale or post unused and unwanted items up for sale.

5. Put your writing skills to good use.—Are you the next J.K. Rowling? Take advantage of freelancing opportunities or place an ad in your local paper to market your writing or editing abilities.

6. Become a tutor.—Focus in more than one language or a genius at math? Post flyers around your neighborhood or place an ad in the local paper and put your expertise to good use.

7. Rent out a room.—If you have a spare room in your house or apartment that you're not using, consider renting it out.

8. Embrace your inner chef.—Have a neighborhood bake sale or find a local restaurant looking for fresh, homemade pastries.

9. Party your way to money.—Are you great at organizing parties and events? Put your party skills to good use by coordinating and planning events like birthday parties, christening, etc.

Most parties happen on weekends so those won't get in the way of weekday work.

10. Babysit for neighbors.

Avon Philippines president and general manager Bob Briddon recently presented the twin direct-selling opportunity as one of the best options as people look for ways to survive in today's economy.

Briddon shared, "The great thing about the Avon earnings opportunity is that you make of it what you want. Whatever your goal may be, you adjust your personal investment of time and effort accordingly. Being an Avon representative empowers women to run a business in a way that works for their lifestyle. Some representatives choose to make Avon their full-time career—and some of them earn well into the six figures. Others choose to do it part-time along with taking care of their children or working a part-time job."

IN THIS ISSUE
Heritage schoolhouse set for demolition/C2
Malang drawings on view at West/C3

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

GRAND CENIA
— Condotel and Residences —
856-7788 • 885-7387 • (032) 232-1394
FILINVEST LEGACY

Bart Guingona at a crossroads

By Rafael A. E. C. Diggin
Contributor

STAGE artist Bart Guingona

THE TRAINED THEATER actor never has an existential moment onstage. The actor acting, in the modern sense, is all about the actor inhibiting his character to completely that he loses all sense of self, and ceases to act, but instead simply "is."

One "is" Romeo. Romeo yearns for Juliet. Romeo never stops in the middle of the scene, looks around and asks, "What the heck am I doing here? Why am I wearing these tights?"

Bart Guingona, regarded by some as perhaps our finest stage actor and certainly one of the industry's best directors, never has existential moments onstage. But he is certainly having one offstage...right now.

The acclaimed actor-director says 'The Atheist' might well be his last appearance onstage

MAKATI PALACE HOTEL
Your Royal Address
P1,600++
P 12,500++
HOTEL FACILITIES
(632) 899-0344 FAX NO. 897-5050
Mobile No: 0906-5077300 / 0921-7585107
www.makatipalacehotel.com.ph email address: info@makatipalacehotel.com.ph
5011 P. Burgos cor. Cacerres St., Makati City Phils.

Month-long 'sarsuwela' fest in February

'We must love the sarsuwela because it is part of our heritage,' says National Artist for Literature Virgilio Almario

By Amado Mo. Guerrero
Contributor

LOVERS OF THE FILIPINO sarsuela—make that sarsuwela—rejoice!

The University of the Philippines will stage the a month-long Sarsuwela Festival at the flagship campus in Diliman, Quezon City, this 4-27.

This was announced at a press conference at the UP Theater by UP president Emerlinda R. Roman. Speaking in Filipino, Roman said the objective of the festival was "to make the sarsuwela a part (bahagi) of the new generation."

She noted that there had been new sarsuwela written by Bienvenido Lumbera, Nicanor Tiongson and Mario Ocfemia, and that even the old sarsuwela dealt with contemporary problems that still existed today.

In his remarks, festival director Virgilio Almario, National Artist for Literature, traced the current dwindled lack of popularity to the country's short memory ("maikling memory") and alleged lack of humor ("walang damdamin") "Even our President—not our UP president, of course —does..."

Mend Your Speech - Mind Your Manners!
WILMA CRUZ DALAELA
Is now accepting applicants for its Two Year Training Program in Cosmetic Surgery
Buy one take one on noselift surgery ... limited offer only

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS
Meet the winners of Miss FM's Tuning Rules and catch their live performances
TUNOG KALYE

"Stretch"-ing your Peso?
Come to The Linden Suites... We'll stretch your money. Call us at +(63-2) 638 7878 for more information.
PUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
SANLIBONG PISO
The Linden Suites

Heritage schoolhouse in Laoag set for demolition

A PLAN TO DEMOLISH A heritage schoolhouse—Laoag Central Elementary School at the city center—and convert the site into a new commercial mall has become a controversial issue in the city.

The plan comes at a time when the Department of Tourism (DepEd) has recognized the historic value of heritage schoolhouses and recently launched a nationwide renovation program for the Gabaldon schoolhouses. (Isnais—Tabaldon was the representative for Ilocos Norte in 1907-1911 and the author of the law granting government funding for construction of public schools all over the country.)

Designed for the tropics and constructed to stand over a raised concrete base, the schoolhouses established a commanding presence for DepEd and symbolized the national priority of education for all. Generations of Filipino graduates from the public school system regard these schoolhouses as their personal heritage.

Heritage Conservation Society officials issued the following statement in favor of retaining the Laoag Central Elementary School building:

"It is sad to note that as the Philippines arrives to more forward into the new millennium, we have forgotten to understand the true meaning and value of what makes us a people, a nation and a country as a whole.

Disregard of the past

"The cautious destruction and desecration of our historic sites manifests total disregard for the past, the contributions of our forefathers and the relentless suffering of our people. This is true particularly in the conservation need to promote growth through the demolition of historic sites and structures for what is today perceived as the most essential infrastructure, project around, the shopping mall.

SINCE the Amos has passed, the heritage building of Laoag Central Elementary School has been part of the city's collective memory as the place where many generations of residents went to.

"The historic city of Laoag, Ilocos Norte, is one case in point. Laoag Central Elementary School, built in 1920, is a fine example of educational architecture originally designed during the American colonial period to provide first-class instruction even in the farthest reaches of our archipelago.

"Designed in accordance to the Gabaldon Law (which stipulated that education was for all, thus necessitating the construction of school buildings for rural areas), these centers of education and the symbolism architecture they provide have shaped, molded and inspired generations upon generations of Filipinos.

"For a building, historic in its significance in the annals of the city history if not Philippine history, to unwarranted destruction and conversion into another center of consumerism is another sign of our lost regard for our rich cultural past.

"Some sectors claim that the building and its grounds are ripe for development. Getting right smack in the center of Laoag, indeed, the area to prime real estate. But its building, particularly its main administrative structure, needs to be preserved, conserved and above all saved from the wrecking balls of greed.

"Even though the building is not yet listed by the National Historical Institute as historic, it is historic no doubt. It is expected of the people of Laoag, Ilocos Norte, and the Philippines as a whole to preserve the last dwindling historical buildings still standing.

"Heritage is defined not solely as a structure with an official plaque as designated by these governmental agencies. Heritage is the heart and soul of a people, community and country.

"Heritage reinhances the continuity of the past. Heritage gives identity to a people, city, place and country. As such, heritage is rendered with age, grace, having nobility, significance and, above all, love.

"But if we love our country then we should love the vestiges of what this country stands for. Thus this historic structure should be demolished for yet another shopping mall is a complete insult and disregard for love of country."

E-mail the author at pride.place@gmail.com.

Bart Guingona at a crossroads

From page C1

He recently announced that to celebrate his 25th year in theater, he would stage a solo production of a play called "The Artiste," a single-actor monologue that is so determinedly environmental as you could imagine. He then announced it might well be his last appearance onstage.

Politics

"I started to go into politics originally," said Guingona. "This was when I was in high school and college. I took up economics. The idea was I would go to law school, become a lawyer, get involved in governance, blah blah blah. So I got good grades, graduated, and before going to law school, I figured I'd try it out, get some experience. So I got a job switch, would you believe it, the Ministry of Human Settlements. This was in the early '80s. The bureaucracy and culture of government came as a culture shock to me, and I was none too diplomatic.

"On the side, I was acting with Repertory Philippines. Then there was the terrible accident in September 1984, in which Arsenio Blanco and other Rep people were killed by a speeding bus at the Edsa-White Plains crossing intersection. Arsenio had been in a key role in one of the Repertory plays, 'Woman of the Year.'

"[Dennis] Arnaiz called me and said, 'Can you take the role? Actually, I was already in the play, but because of the rehearsals for the replacement cast, in addition to the three funerals that week, I became too dog-tired to act in the play. I was already spending too much time in the theater. I realized I'd have to quit my job. I said yes, I'll take it. It was a turning point."

Commitment

What followed was a career of acting commitments nicely seen in Philippine theater. Guingona spent nine years at Repertory, then struck out on his own, founding his own group, Actors' Actors Inc., and staging what he called "The Necessary Theater" in 1997.

"After nine years or Rep, I was burnt out. It was a punishing schedule, much harder than any corporate job. We opened for work in the morning, and spent the first hours either doing a school show or a corporate show. We had barely an hour for lunch, and at 1 p.m., we were back onstage, doing pickup rehearsals or readings. Three to 5 p.m. are us rehearsing the next play of the season, then we were onstage for the night's performance at 7 or 8 p.m. I rarely got home before midnight.

"At that time, I was becoming increasingly disenchanted with the material. Rep had started out with noble intentions, but by the late '80s, it was almost totally commercial. And, I don't say this in a critical way, I mean, tickets were sold, seats were filled and all that. But it wasn't what I got into theater to do. It wasn't me any more."

Guingona's search for meaning led him to stage plays with his own company that, while unconventional, were critically acclaimed, and, for him, culturally significant.

"To make a long story short, I lost my shirt. And pants. And socks. And everything."

The shows nevertheless went on. Guingona eventually found partners and put together another company that did corporate events, leveraging on their theater skills. It was this, more than anything, that paid the bills.

But no matter how successful production values ensured, Guingona always felt the next production that would, most likely, bust it.

"I put up three plays because I think there are things that need to be said. I know it will galvanize from the get go. But I felt, as I feel today, there were plays that must be seen and heard and thoughts about by our society," Guingona said. "I don't regret a minute of it, nor do I regret a minute of it."

Affiliation

Another path also presented itself during the Erap era. Guingona became deeply involved in Pagbabago Chango!, originally a loose affiliation of civil society leaders, with a healthy dose of artists and showbiz people, who were seeking more permanent societal change beyond just deposing one president in favor of another.

He was elected leader of Pagbabago, and oversaw its evolution from a protest group into a nonpartisan political organization.

"We do a lot of projects now, quietly, that I really believe in. I saw that this was a path to what I originally wanted to do, to change society for the better. So maybe, just maybe, I will have finished and pursue this full time.

"I've come to the stage in my life where I'm no longer concerned about where the next meal is going to come from. I am confident I can make it, no matter what I do. So what I do becomes so much more important."

Challenge

"The Artiste" is a daunting challenge—an 80-minute monologue, by turns shocking and funny, about a completely amoral person, who, for starters, sets his trailer home on fire and murders his mother in the fire so they can get more welfare money.

"I do believe Bonifacio should dock audiences into re-examination. This is the perfect play in many ways. It's not shocking for the sake of being shocking but a real look at what this world means to a completely amoral mind. And then, what morality means to us."

It remains to be seen where Bart Guingona's existential moments will lead him...and us.

"The Artiste" will have a single gala performance at the Ayala Museum at 8 p.m. on Feb. 6 for the benefit of Ayala Foundation's various education programs. See or call 8916 0000/01 or 8916-4625/30 for info and tickets.

KARAGDAGAN Kalinangan Foundation Inc.

Month-long . . .

From page C1

Alunan sited a UP study to which, he said, not one student seemed to remain in the country but preferred to live abroad. The Philippines was just No. 30 on the list of preferred countries, he added.

So he concluded: "We must love the seriousness because it is part of our heritage. It was borrowed from the Spaniards (seriously), but it became truly ours because it is used our very own talent ("sariling talino").

Four productions

Sarsuela Festival 2009 opens with a grand parade at the UP Academic Oval on Feb. 6, 2 p.m., during which scenes from the featured sarsuela productions will be presented.

Also classic sarsuelas will be performed at the University Theater (6 p.m.) through the month:

- "Paglipas ng Ilaw" (1928), by Leon Ignacio and Francisca Benitez, to be performed by the University of the East Ormoc Company, Feb. 6-8.
- "Walang Sugat" (1902), with the great musical score of Felipe de Leon and libretto by Severino Reyes ("Lola Basyang"), to be performed by the Rajah Sulaiman Foundation, Feb. 11-13.
- "Sa Bungad ng Hiling" (1931), by Leon Ignacio and Julian Cruz Balmaceda, to be performed by the Far Eastern University Ad Theater (Tandang Sora), Feb. 18-20.
- "Ang Xiri" (1926), by Leon Ignacio and Servando de los Angeles, to be performed by Dalaang UE Feb. 26-27.

The latter is preceded by a new sarsuela from Bohol, "Palayuan ng Intrigs," to be premiered by the UP Visayas Alumni Theater Company at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater.

Complementing the stage performances are four golden oldie films with sarsuela themes to be shown at the UP Film Institute: "Gilas ko" (1939), directed by Carlos Vander Tolosa, Feb. 19, 30 a.m. and 2 p.m.; "Ang may sira ang" (1950), Octavio Silos, Feb. 19, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; "Mudalo Mahapit" (1954), Alberto Isreal, Feb. 25, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; and "Tandoan" (1971), Lino Brocka, Feb. 26, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

There will also be an exhibit, mineral conference, research component, lecture-series and writing competition, all tied up with the sarsuela and other zarzuela-related forms celebrating Arts Month, Febuary.

Dates for the performances and showings are a bargain: P50 for the student plates and P80 for the films.

E-mail [illegible]

escape... to discovery shores boracay

Enjoy an all-inclusive three-day holiday in one of Boracay's most luxurious accommodations. Package includes a blissful Mandala Spa ® massage. Rates begin at P10,888 per person. Plan your escape today!
Contact us at (63 2) 683.8238 / 683.8222 local 3408.

The Escape Package is valid from February 1 - 28, 2009. Advance reservations required. Rate quoted above is valid per person based on twin sharing. For more information, log on to www.discoveryshoresboracay.com.

DISCOVERY SHORES

Asean holds symposium on traditional textiles

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

FLECIDAD SADIRIS EVOLVED FROM a market vendor and a salesgirl at the now defunct Aguinaldo's department store into an entrepreneur of Eli Barong, which retails lacings exclusively at SM Robinsons and recently a publisher of the definitive book "Garments of Honor, Garment of Identity."

A 50-year-old woman from Aklan, Sadiris is the only surviving weaver who works on the antique four-pedal loom. She built her own home from purchasing fabrics.

From Feb. 1-3 at the National Museum, the 2nd Asean Traditional Textiles Symposium will discuss how indigenous materials and artisan skills can be preserved and be commercially viable. Delegates from 11 Asean nations will tackle issues on how their textile traditions can be made relevant in the 21st century.

"Textiles are evocative of your material culture. Humanity is embedded in textiles—the weaving, motifs, response to the environment and stance toward others. Many social interactions have been made through textiles. Since textiles are the basis of our garments, they establish our identity," says Undersec. Alvina, president of the National Museum and co-chair of the symposium.

She adds that traditional textiles are difficult to preserve since raw materials are getting scarcer due to envio-commercial degradation and globalization. To keep the traditional textile productions going, demand has to be created through information, marketing and promotion.

Traditional function

"People should be made aware of the traditional function of fabrics," says Alvina, citing motifs which reveal the subject.

CONTEMPORARY silk ikat weaver using traditional pua kumbu motifs for textiles

'The textile industry is the pillar of our economy'

WOMAN works on a silk loom.

For instance, the crocodile is often symbolized as an evil power, or a metaphor for a person who is sly and deceitful. However, in Mexikanan cultures, the crocodile represents an ancestral spirit. When worn close to the body, it is believed to provide powers similar to an amulet.

The training uses abstract motifs instead of realistic representations out of respect for the natural world. Similarly, Malaysian batik motifs are made under the influence of Islam, which finds it improper to depict animals.

On the other hand, Indonesian batik, an amalgamation of Hindu, Islam, Chinese and Western cultures, is vibrant with geometric figures, stripes and stylized shapes.

Alvina says Filipinos would have more to expect if they understand the original context of the fabrics. A common blunder is the downgrading of Bagobo ceremonial death blankets into mere decorative wall tapestry or tablecloth.

"If you study the textiles, the range of human activity is infinite. The best way for people to know more about them is through this conference. Experts will make comparative studies where we can learn about our links with other cultures," says Alvina.

Seng Sphanith, president of Khmer Arts and Crafts Association, will discuss the production and sustainability of silk textiles in Cambodia.

Linda Lim will talk about introducing pifia to provide livelihood to Ifugaos, while Oswald Pulmones of the University of Guam will discuss problems in sustaining traditional textiles on Pati Island, Guam.

Alvina says the Philippines has its own challenges in preserving tradition. In Mindanao, weavers have had to flee flying bullets, as the Muslim-Christian conflict disrupt production. Also, local weavers are using commercial dyes instead of natural dyes due to their scarcity.

Another reason traditional textiles are not considered mainstream is that Filipinos consider native garments as souvenirs for special or thematic occasions, unlike in India and Indonesia where the sari and batik, respectively, are worn by people from all walks of life as part of their daily attire.

Bazaar, fashion show

A bazaar and a fashion show aim to put these fabrics in modern and commercial contexts. Organized by Cielito Ilagan, the bazaar offers a vast range of indigenous materials from the Philippines and Indonesia.

Artisans such as Yda Johnson of Sumak will produce a special line just for the occasion.

Miza Rufino, president of the Museum Foundation of the Philippines and organizer of the fashion show, has commissioned weavers from Aklan and Aurora to make special fabrics such as sinuos-linen, Philippine dupioni, pina-silk, silk-abaca and jusi-pina.

Designers Lulu Tan-Gan, Benito Ramos Dean, Cary Santiago and Rivera Cinco will adapt these fabrics to contemporary fashion.

Maribel Ongpin, vice-chair, points out that the world has admired the pina fabric, which only the Philippines produces. However, despite such interest, there is a lack of research on providing sources and suppliers to potential international buyers.

"The textile industry is the pillar of the economy," she says. "If we can give more opportunities to the rural weaving people will have a higher standard of living. We are in the loop with our textiles. They are part of our identity and culture, and, hopefully also of our future."

Malang drawings a credit to art form

By Constantino C. Tejero

DRAWING IS considered the foundation of art-making. An artist who goes straight to abstraction without first learning how to draw is often censured as an less of an artist.

This is essential argument in the ongoing, one-upmanship between the Fine Arts students of University of the Philippines and University of Sto. Tomas. to true that argument may prove, well, academic—because, whatever experts all fashion designers to know how to sew?

Three years ago, a newly formed artists' group, the Philippine Drawing Society, launched the first national drawing competition "in a bold attempt to elevate the standards of drawing as a major art form." It invited both upcoming and established artists, students and masters, to submit up to two pieces each using any drawing medium.

That attracted over 100 entries, many of them strong, some preliminaries. Some relatively unknown artists, particularly art students, had stepped up and in a few cases even outperformed their mentors.

Of the winning entries and finalists, most were conventional figure drawings ranging from graphic designs to fully finished paintings, a few of abstracted forms, some playing with chiaroscuro and perspective, rendered largely on real ink or pencil then enhanced by or filled with watercolor, acrylic, oil.

The venerable Hilario "Hilang" Sarreal, a perennial candidate for the National Artist, not

GE Money Bank
A Savings Bank
PERSONAL LOANS
Your loan approval starts now.
Get it™
Get the GE Money Bank Personal Loan in just 4 hours.* Apply now!
Call us at (02) 777 8500
GE imagination at work
Cash in as Fast as 4 HOURS

NO DOWN PAYMENT!
CALL 927-8888
MAKE THE MOVE!
GA SKY SUITES
www.gaskysuites.com
Site Address: #27 EDSA (Southmost) corner Quezon Avenue, West Triangle, Quezon City
GA
GLOBE ASIATIQUE

FROM STAGE TO SCREEN

The Devil wears a habit

By Lisa B. Zaballa

MERYLL STREEP DELIVERS a gripping performance of commanding body terror in John Patrick Shanley's film adaptation of his Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Doubt."

As Sister Aloysius Beauvier, the principal of St. Nicholas in the Bronx, she's the hound of God to Philip Seymour Hoffman's charismatic Father Flynn, who's suspected by umpteen Sister Jamea (Amy Adams) to have molested the school's first African-American kid in the immediate aftermath of the desegregation to predominantly-mississippian New York.

Sister James, bless her Christian soul, insists there must be some explanation, and when Flynn gives it, she's willing to let go of the matter. But not Sister Aloysius, who's convinced of Flynn's guilt.

"Now can you be so sure he's lying?" Amies asks her.

"Experience," she replies.

Both play and film do not really explain Aloysius' absolute certainty, except that the latter adds that she had been in the convent since and lost her husband in the last war. But if one can permit marriage to have disillusioned and allowed her to shed the school-marmish ways of a spinsary, one is disappointed.

Streep is sure and keeps a strict eye on all of the kids, and admonishes them not to fall for the kids' wiles: "Tomorrow is a feast of Eucharist. Innocent mothers are easily duped. You must be canny, Sister James."

Mirror

Is Sister Aloysius a monster? That seems to be the overriding premise of Shanley's interesting drama. Despite Vatican II going on, the nuns on low and discipline to the school, scolding to Flynn's remark that the message of the council is "for the Church to have a more human face."

When Aloysius presses on her him to admit he has molested the boy, Flynn rattles back: "You are single-handedly holding this school and this parish back."

"From what?" she asks.

"Progressive ideas and a sense of the times," he replies.

The best thing about "Doubt" is the antipodal positions of the two principles, as well as the tight ensemble acting of Streep, Hoffman, Adams and Viola Davis, who plays the mother of the Negro boy whom Aloysius tries to convince to file a complaint against Flynn. All of that makes "Doubt" worth watching.

But "Doubt" has its own share of dubious features. To be sure, it's energetic and angry: Shanley's also adapted his play and shows it, while done in the original and stacks nearly all of the scenes against Aloysius and her latest campaign to kick Flynn out of the school.

But he gives indications of Flynn's real character in the movie: Aside from his lack of mortification for unlocked cupboard for his tea, which sends the priests in search of communion, to panic), the director shows his heavy appetite (Flynn eats steak, medium rare and very bloody).

More unobtrusively he shows Aloysius doing small acts of charity: seeing a sister getting blood from endurance, then by pushing her the fork when the latter is groping for; and her condescending but altogether maternal treatment of Sister James.

Sexism

The film also magnifies the sexism of the hierarchy that may have contributed to moral laxity in the all-male priesthood. In the film, when Flynn goes to Aloysius' office for a meeting on the Christmas pageant in case set up by Aloysius so she can spring on him the case about the black boy), he not-quite-implies Aloysius' sex.

From the reporting of clerical malfeasance should follow the traditional procedure: "The Church is very clear," he tells her. "You should have gone to the pastor."

But the audience's sympathy expected still in Flynn. This is unfortunate because the subject matter is very sensitive child molestation.

Shanley portrays Flynn as the future of the Church, Aloysius its disgraceful past. She's the Church militant: She will not break for questioning the rigid rules of the Church, even if they massively translate into tired rituals and hardly connect with the audience lured to the faithful. If grace builds on nature, then nature should be nurtured, nourished and pruned to administer to or to be made ready for the dawning of and renewed by the Holy Spirit. And this is Aloysius right may be correct because of the laxity unleashed by the Ecumenical Council. But Aloysius is still the villain.

Augustine

Flynn unfortunately reveals in the doubt he calls certainty because of the psychological perks one enjoys when living found after getting lost.

Telling the congregation the parable of the shipwrecked sailor who "turned his eyes to heaven and to the stars," and navigated his life-raft toward shore only for him to stay adrift and seemingly lost in the middle of the ocean, he closes with a moral that "a sailor does not throw and is instantly as marooned as the sailor: "Doubt can be a friend as powerful and reassuring as certainty."

Flynn is obviously Augustinian, pro-confession: "Lord, convert me, but not yet." Worse, he's a serial Augustinian: He commits sin over and over to order to bask in the mercy of God.

Shanley dedicates his play "to the many ordinary Catholic nuns who devoted their lives to serving others in hospitals, schools and retirement homes... who have [been] much maligned and ridiculed." But his sympathy does not really blunt the ridicule to which those nuns have been subjected. He plays the all-male God too much.

"Doubt" opens in cinemas across Metro Manila on Feb. 4.

Meryll Streep is the hound of God in 'Doubt,' a disturbing but ultimately manipulative movie about child abuse

LIVE @ MEGAMALL
Catch the most entertaining acts perform live this week!
Mark Bautista
I'll be the One
February 7
Saturday • 6pm
Event Center
Rachelle Ann Go
Falling In Love
February 8
Sunday • 5pm
Event Center

Panasonic
Ideas for life
eco ideas
ENVIO Inverter Technology
SAVE ENERGY BY UP TO 50%
WITH THE INVERTER TECHNOLOGY
• Advanced C-ion Air Purifying System • New Patrol Sensor • Odor-Removing Function
Eco-Friendly Features
INVERTER Technology
envio

Malang . . .

From page 63

Since the storm of drawing as major art form with his latest exhibit, a treasure of some 300 drawings in pen-and-ink, watercolor, gouache, acrylic, charcoal, oxy-vit.

"Shining Dreamings," held in celebration of the artist 61st birthday, runs until Feb. 8 in the Art Center at the Artwalk, L-9, Bldg. 8, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Malang started drawing quite early, at age 9 taking lessons from landscapist Teodoro Buenaventura, an Antonio Amorsolo contemporary. And that was all the formal art education he would need.

After only three months, he dropped out of the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts. Soon he became a newspaper magazine and komiks illustrator, editorial artist and cartoonist—an invaluable experience that he says "honed his graphic skills, while having a day job, [he] also taught him to be disciplined and more attentive to the things that were on around him as sources of ideas."

It was only much later that he went into painting, in the process mastering every other medium he could lay his hands on. Influenced at first by HR Giger's early surrealism, his art evolved into a sort of culture uniquely his own, with a remembrance to "visual, design and color."

"TWO Women"

Shining draws repeatedly on a daily basis, producing pieces that range from more conventionally realized artworks that approach the best of his paintings. Typical are the etchings, particularly the horse-horning; the floral forms, often gesturing into quasi-abstractions, his signature women and wonders.

Like his paintings, these drawings are easily recognizable, with his characteristic simple lines and graphic composition, geometric patterns, jagged figures, and scintillating eyes in rare monochrome.

In this exhibition then, as the master himself has shown, we see why drawing is important to art making. First, of course, it frames skill and tempers the artist's self-indulgence, the most of all, it defines emotions and translates thoughts into visible forms.

MOTHERS should first find out from whom their children really need for their developing minds and bodies

LIFESTYLE

"Milk must contain nutrients that children need for body growth, strong body defense and brain development"

What growing kids need in milk

EARLIER studies about probiotics also say that they help prevent bowel conditions, protect kids against allergies, and reduce the risk of colon cancer

By Rowena Burgos

MILK has high nutritive value. It supplies body-building proteins, bone-forming calcium and health-giving vitamins and furnishes energy-giving lactose and essential fatty acids.

Milk must contain nutrients that children need for body growth, strong body defense and brain development, according to nutritionist-dietitian Sara Magtibay, MS FNO.

"Mothers should first find out from most know which nutrients their children really need for their developing minds and bodies," she says.

Calcium and Protein

An excellent source of essential nutrients, milk contains highly absorbable calcium which helps build and maintain bones and teeth.

Calcium absorption is highest in kids, reaching up to 60 percent. This essential mineral is considered the main building block of the structure of the bones because it makes the skeleton thick, strong and dense.

Calcium lessens the risk of developing osteoporosis later on life, too.

"Kids who get enough calcium and physical activities have the highest chance of building strong bones," Sara Magtibay says.

Calcium also controls various body processes such as muscle contraction and heart beat regulation.

Protein is also present in milk for normal body growth. According to Sara Magtibay, milk proteins contains all the essential amino acids required by the body for growth and building and repairing tissues.

Probiotics and Prebiotics

Researches have shown that there are special ingredients that help build body defenses. Examples of these are probiotics and prebiotics.

Probiotics are good microorganisms that help maintain gastrointestinal health resulting to stronger body defense and protection against infections and diseases.

Jose Saavedra, a well-known gastroenterologist, says that fortifying foods goes a step further than providing basic nutrients for growth and development. "The inclusion of probiotics (in food) addresses an important objective of nutrition: supporting and modulating children's immune systems," Saavedra says.

The Nestle Research Center in Lausanne, Switzerland collaborated with Imperial College London on a research saying that probiotic drinks and yoghurts help improve the health of the gut.

Probiotics help the digestive system recuperate after children have been treated with antibiotics. Probiotics restore the good bacteria that were destroyed by medication. They

RIGHT BROWSING TO

Does Your Child's Milk Help Build Body Defenses?

Be sure to check for the following important nutrients:

Probiotics

Probiotics are good microorganisms that help maintain gastrointestinal health, resulting in stronger body defense and protection against infections and diseases.

NIDO 3+ has Lactobacillus PROTECTUS®, a live probiotic strain of Lactobacillus paracasei combined with the complementary benefits of Bifidobacterium longum that is proprietary to Nestlé. One gram of NIDO 3+ yields at least 10 million Lactobacillus paracasei and 3 million Bifidobacterium longum. This amount is important to help show the benefit of protection in your child.

Scientific studies have shown that Lactobacillus PROTECTUS® stays alive in the digestive system - a very important consideration for probiotics to demonstrate their benefit.

Prebiotics

Prebiotics are natural fibers that serve as food for good bacteria. Prebiotics may be identified as "oligosaccharides" or "dietary fibers" in nutrition labels. To help build body defenses, it is important to have the combined effect of prebiotics and probiotics. Fortunately, NIDO 3+ has Prebio1, an exclusive blend of natural fibers developed by the Nestlé Research Center to help maintain a healthy digestive system.

Check the Label

So check the label of your child's milk. Make sure that the milk brand you give him is packed with these important nutrients to help build his body's defenses.

Make it a habit. It pays to check the label!

Nestlé NIDO 3+

From 3-5 years old

What you should know about adult milk

By Rowena Burgos

FROM the time we were children, we listened to our parents tell us of all the benefits of milk and as a result, we were expected to drink at least one glass per day.

As we became older, many of us doubted the idea of drinking milk either because we felt we were too "grown" to have to drink milk, or because we had become conscious of our figures and felt milk would make us fat. In lieu of milk, we switched to other dairy products or vitamins in order to still provide our bodies with calcium.

According to health experts, there are several benefits of milk, the foremost of which is the ability to prevent osteoporosis. Several studies have also shown that milk may help in the management of weight when taken with proper diet.

Preventing osteoporosis

As we grow older, our bone density likewise changes. Bone breakdown begins to exceed bone formation as we age and this is one of the leading factors in the development of osteoporosis.

Women undergoing menopause, in particular, are more prone to developing this disease as the hormonal changes that their bodies undergo reduces the ability to deposit calcium in the bones. During this phase in a woman's life, their estrogen production declines. Estrogen is essential in the maintenance of bone strength and a decrease in estrogen levels means less calcium is deposited in the bones.

Countering obesity

Contrary to popular belief, research has shown that people who consume milk and dairy foods are likely to be slimmer than those who do not.

Studies have also shown that consumption of milk and dairy foods as part of a calorie controlled diet is associated with increased weight loss. Possible mechanisms is that calcium binds with fat then reducing its absorption to our body.

This is important as obesity is a major risk factor for lifestyle disease like heart disease, diabetes and hypertension.

It is, however, important to remember that we should also check the fat and sugar content of the milk products we buy. They, after all, may contribute to significant weight gain, if left unchecked.

Healthy blood

Milk products for us adults now likewise contain good amounts of iron, a nutrient that we women particularly need.

Iron is essential in maintaining healthy blood and thus helps beating anemia. Deficient iron levels in the body may lead to feelings of dizziness, lethargy and weakness and may even result to heart palpitations and pale skin.

Folate is another important nutrient that is essential in the formation of red and white blood cells.

ADULT women's calcium needs are different from kids' and teens' needs.

GIVE yourself a peace of mind by choosing right!

Read your food labels and maintain a well-balanced diet

To know that you are getting the optimum amount of calcium and iron and less of the fat and sugar in your milk brand, check the nutritional information indicated in its labels. They may be found at the back or sides of the products your purchase and make comparisons of each product's nutritional content per 100 grams. This way, you'll know if you're getting your money's worth from the products that you buy.

And, as any good doctor would advise, do not neglect the nutrients from other food sources as well to maintain a healthy, well-balanced diet.

AS WOMEN AGE, they need particular nutrients, so checking the label is a must.

The truth is in the label

By Atty. Gaby Concepcion

BEFORE I became a mother of four, I used to think that the labels on food products sounded like legalese - if not Greek - to me. It seemed much easier for bad and undersized like Congressmember Tax Payer Act or the Tariff and Customs Code than comprehend what was written on the back of food labels.

Like me, well-meaning consumers may have been confused by the competing health claims of today's food products. But as any wise consumer knows, we should not rely solely on these claims peddled by advertisements when picking goods off the shelf.

In choosing which brand of food products to buy for the family, how can the average consumer separate the hype from the truth? Help is where the product's food labels would come in handy.

Why I read the label

Food labels are required by law and are indispensable tools for a consumer in the exercise of their right to information and choice. These labels provide a tangible and efficient way to compare similar products of different brands, to see if all the important nutrients are present in their products. Nutrition information in food labels should be able to back up their boxed health claims.

As a young, busy mother, I used to rely heavily on advertisements in making choices for my children - trusting in a milk brand's claims that it was "the best" for my children's growth and providing the necessary nutrients like protein (for muscles) and calcium (for bones) to nourish their rapidly growing bodies.

That was until my pediatrician warned me that my milk brand may actually contain too many calories, sugar and fat. A closer look at its food label and comparing it with other milk brands - not only confirmed my pediatrician's suspicions but also did reveal many interesting facts. It also taught me an invaluable lesson on how to be an empowered consumer by the mere expedient of reading and comparing food labels.

Calcium, DHA, and probiotics for kids

Aside from supporting your child's physical growth, the nutrients in milk products should ideally be able to help aid their mental development. For this latter, you'll want the food labels to see which ones have good DHA fortification.

Playful as they are, kids' still fragile immune systems would also need special ingredients fortified in their food or milk like probiotics. The support for increased protection provided by probiotics like Lactobacillus Protectus would help keep their bodies strong against a variety of diseases and infection.

Calcium, Iron, and Vitamin C for adults

When it comes to adult milk products, calcium is one of the most looked for ingredients. Calcium is an important nutrient - especially for us adult women - for safeguarding bones against osteoporosis.

So if a product claims to help fight osteoporosis, be sure to look for the amount of calcium it contains.

Women who are going through heavy periods are especially vulnerable to anemia. This can be prevented by increasing their iron intake, which fortunately may also be provided by milk.

SO MYOPIC pinning up that adult milk ad the stars shall, take a moment to check its label

Did you know that Vitamin C helps our bodies absorb iron better, and has been shown to reduce the fat flush as commonly experienced by menopausal women.

Don't get duped

Consumers shouldn't rely solely on advertisements or on terminologies a product's nutritional benefits. By reading and understanding the nutrition facts printed at the back of the package, you'll know what nutrients it contains and how much of them you are getting, and which ones you are missing out on. Reading the product's fine print and comparing it with others can help us choose the best value for our health and money would help a lot in making better, well-informed buying decisions.

ATTY. Gaby Concepcion

MOTHER, vitamin, and mineral supplements are three of the most important sources of women

What growing kids need in milk

From page B1

may also help reduce the side effects of antibiotics like diarrhea and gas when taken within three to four hours after the ingestion of antibiotics.

Probiotics likewise increase the absorption of nutrients in food. Since probiotics help prevent intestinal infection, the body is more likely to absorb more and better nutrients needed for normal growth.

Earlier studies about probiotics also say that they help prevent bowel conditions, protect kids against allergies, and reduce the risk of colon cancer. They are used as well to relieve symptoms of lactose intolerance, a condition in which the gut doesn't have enough enzymes to digest milk sugar.

On the other hand, prebiotics are non-digestible ingredients of food that stimulate the growth of microorganisms present in the gut. They are also an important ingredient for a healthy digestive system.

Sources of prebiotics include fruits, legumes, and whole grains. However, some milk brands are now fortified with prebiotics so children can maintain a healthy digestive system. Prebiotics is presented as oligosaccharides on the nutritional table.

It is important to have the combined effect of probiotics and prebiotics to help build body defenses.

DHA

Some milk brands are fortified with Docosahexaenoic Acid (DHA) that is important for healthy visual and brain development. Adequate nutrition of this omega 3 fatty acid is associated with optimal brain and visual development and function.

According to Dana Magtibay, DHA is important to children as they grow up and experience nutritional lacking and development. "DHA helps support brain development of children so they will continuously develop their skills and so that new ones when they engage themselves in various activities," Dana Magtibay says.

Now that you know what your growing kids really need, check the label of their growing up milk. Make sure that the milk brand you give them is packed with the essential nutrients and special ingredients to help support the three important areas of development based on their needs: body growth, body defense and brain development.

Checking the label is a wise habit

By Sue Entrata-Abreu

As a wife and mom, I always want to give the best food and drink products to my family, and by that I mean not only that they are the best taste-wise, but also nutrition-wise.

This is one of the reasons why I have developed the habit of checking the nutritional information contained in the products that I give them. This specially holds true for my three children, two of whom are in their "growing up years." It is during this time that they need all the vitamins and nutrients.

And by checking the label, I don't mean just looking out which product offers the best nutrients, but making sure that these nutrients are really those that my children need. This is especially true when choosing the right milk for them.

Sue Entrata-Abreu

For Leona and Jade, for example, I look for products that will help give them nutrients or ingredients essential for body growth, strong defense against sickness and diseases, and cognitive development.

LOOK for products that will help give your growing up kids nutrients or ingredients essential for body growth, strong defense against sickness and diseases, and cognitive development

Calcium and protein for their growth

For strong body growth, children in their growing up years need the best amount of calcium. Calcium, as we all know, is good for the teeth and bones. And this age when Leona and Jade would like to explore the world around them, I think they need all the calcium that they can get.

Protein is also something that they shouldn't do without. It has muscle-building properties that are essential for a growing child.

Probiotics to help support their immune system

And as they begin to explore, they likewise encounter new experiences. They want to learn more about the simplest and most complex of things-why clouds sink, why flowers bloom, or even how a bicycle gets from here to there.

As such, they not only ask questions, they also touch things. They want to feel how it is in their hands. They might dip their hands into that pond to get that stone from the bottom, caress a new broom as it opens up, or even ride after that bicycle.

With that, they are also exposed to...let's just say, unwanted matter (bacteria, germs and such). And for this, I want to strengthen their bodies against sickness and diseases.

I have heard of good microorganisms (bacteria) in milk products contained in growing up milk that helps improve children's health and I make sure that the right one is found in the product that I give them.

DHA to support their brain development

And as they explore and experience, they begin to acquire new knowledge and for this, I want to make sure that their growing up milk helps in their brain development.

For example, milk products nowadays contain DHA, which according to what I have learned in my readings, really does help it grow in the right amounts.

I want my children to be not just physically strong, but mentally strong as well.

Choose the best by checking the label

Feedings product's label may seem a big effort at first, but just think that at the end of the day, we're talking about our children's health here.

To reiterate, read the label to know which products provide the optimum amounts of the nutrients and ingredients that your children really need. With this, you not only ensure their good health and development, but you also get the best value for your money. Always go for the best choice.

READING a product's label may seem a big effort at first, but just think that at the end of the day, we're talking about our children's health here.

The science of probiotics

ALLOW your kids to discover things, engage in different activities, and play with other children without worrying about their health. Let them explore the world around them with the protection from probiotics.

Probiotics are live and good microorganisms that contribute to achieving optimal health. They can help your children maintain healthy digestive and help support in strengthening immune systems.

What are probiotics?

Probiotics are often called "good bacteria" as they are very beneficial to the human gut. They help reinforce gastrointestinal health by balancing the digestive system. If there's an unnatural balance of the digestive system, this can affect other body functions, such as the immune function, and could cause diseases.

Some foods like growing up milk are fortified with probiotics as healthy additional ingredients. Jose Saavedra, a well-known gastroenterologist, says that fortifying foods goes a step further than providing basic nutrients for growth and development.

YOUR KIDS' milk should support their brain development, or develop and enhance their skills

"The inclusion of probiotics (in food) addresses an important objective of nutrition: supporting and modulating children's immune system," Saavedra says.

The Nestlé Research Center in Lausanne, Switzerland collaborated with Imperial College London on a research saying that probiotic drinks and yoghurts help improve the health of the gut.

How do probiotics work?

Probiotics promote a healthy gut. They help the digestive system recuperate after children have been treated with antibiotics. Probiotics restore the good bacteria that were destroyed by medication.

They can also be used to offset the side-effects from antibiotics, like diarrhea and gas.

Another benefit of probiotics is they increase the absorption of nutrients in food. Since probiotics help prevent intestinal infection, the body is more likely to absorb more and better nutrients needed for normal growth.

Earlier studies about probiotics also say that they help prevent bowel conditions, protect kids against allergies, and reduce the risk of colon cancer. They also act as aid to relieve symptoms of lactose intolerance - a condition in which the gut doesn't have enough enzymes to digest milk sugar.

Are probiotics and prebiotics the same?

Probiotics are usually confused with prebiotics. Although both help in balancing bacteria in the digestive system, prebiotics are non-digestible ingredients of food that stimulate the growth of microorganisms present in the gut.

Sources of prebiotics include fruits, legumes, and whole grains. However, some milk brands are now fortified with prebiotics so children can maintain a healthy digestive system.

Is it in the label?

Growing kids need sufficient amount of probiotics to maintain the health and structure of their gastrointestinal tract and help improve their immune system. It is recommended to check the label of your kids' milk to know if it has the right amount of probiotics that your children need.

Protect your kids from illnesses during this time of discovery by strengthening their immunity with a healthy diet that includes probiotics and prebiotics from their growing up milk.

PREBIOTICS and probiotics in milk help kids build stronger defenses against infections and diseases

Allow your children discover and explore the world around them. Give them milk that supports their growth and help them improve their resistance

AS A MOTHER, Tessa Prieto-Valdes checks the label of milk products to make sure that she gets the best for her kids

Tessa Prieto-Valdes advocates checking the label

TESSA Prieto-Valdes doesn't have qualms admitting that she is "label-conscious."

"I am very particular especially when it comes to food. It's very important to know what it comes from and if the ingredients in sardine is good for you, particularly your children," the mother to two grown boys and two young girls explains. "You should get your money's worth."

The ETV host and reigning champ of Celebrity Duets says that her kids are of different ages, hence have different nutritional needs.

"My youngest, Athena, for example, likes to play a lot. She's a very active child. She's like a little me," she shares.

Tessa adds that Athena is also "such a milk drinker."

"She drinks milk four times a day. That's why I'm very cautious of the milk product we give her. It should be one that gives her both a strong build and body. It should have the right amount of calcium and protein, for example," she says.

Boost their growth with calcium and protein

Calcium, which strengthens bones, and protein, which is vital for its muscle-building properties are must-haves in anybody's diet, but more so for children in the so-called "growing up" years as this is the stage where they are starting to explore and experience the world around them.

Tessa notes, however, that while all milk products contain calcium, moms should also be aware if they deliver the right amounts needed by children.

"Children in their growing up years are very physically active at this age so you would want to provide them with the essential amount of calcium so that their bones will be stronger," she says.

According to the Department of Health, toddlers (children aged 1-3 years old) require about 500mg of calcium each day, while preschool and younger school age children (aged 4-8 years) require about 800 mg of calcium each day.

Then there's protein which is very essential for a growing child. The higher the protein content of a child's milk, the better.

Aid their neural development with DHA and iodine

Children at Athena's age are also very observant and inquisitive, a fact that Tessa has also observed in her little princess.

"One bonding moment usually consists of me reading to her 'Fanny Nanny', her favorite book. She says that she likes Fanny Nanny's mommy," Tessa says.

Two ingredients that can be found in milk products that can help aid children at this stage of their development include DHA and iodine. Several studies have linked DHA to improved cognitive performance in young children, while iodine helps boost their intellectual abilities.

Probiotics-the "good bacteria"

And as children at this age begin discovering the world, they are also prone to ingest bacteria and germs a definite no-no for a health and wellness conscious person such as Tessa.

"That's why I'm excited about this probiotics thing," she says.

Probiotics are often called "good bacteria" as it supports and modulates children's immune system. They help the digestive system "recuperate" after children have been treated with antibiotics and restore the good bacteria that may have been destroyed by medication.

Take a moment to check the label

"And all these calcium, protein, probiotics you can give your children if you just take a moment to check the label of products you give them," Tessa says.

She adds, "I'm a very health-conscious person. I just recently finished the New York Marathon and family bonding moments for me usually consist of going to the beach and scuba diving during weekends. I want my children to be conscious of their health as well and one of the ways I can start training them is to giving them food products that have the right amounts of the essential nutrients that their mind and body needs."

TESSA Prieto-Valdes encourages the public to check the label of a new TVC

Watch out for added sugar

By Dr. Bruce German

The Nestlé Research Center

According to the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, the recommended daily amount of sugar for Filipino children aged 4-9 is 5 teaspoons a day. This includes added sugar in products such as breakfast cereals, cakes, cookies, candies, soft drinks, juices and even milk.

Sugar Overload

Regulating the sugar intake of children is a real challenge, but a necessity, especially if you consider that a 12-ounce serving of a carbonated, sweetened soft drink contains around 10 teaspoons of sugar. Findings show that greater intakes of sugar-sweetened beverages is positively associated with weight gain and obesity in both children and adults. In fact, in 2002, the American Diabetes Association declared type 2 diabetes as the "new epidemic" due to the growing number of cases among children and young adults.

A prominent U.S. study in 2005 based on the diets of more than 5,400 children showed that they consume an alarming amount of added sugar. Researchers noted that fruit drinks, high-fat desserts, and regular soft drinks accounted for half of added sugar.

Added sugar intake per day

Age	Average	Highest Level
2-3 years	14 teaspoons	23 teaspoons
4-5 years	17 teaspoons	28 teaspoons

These findings are reason for concern. And while further research is needed to investigate its effects on diet quality, body weight, and the health status of young children, parents would be well advised to limit the amount of added sugar in their children's diet.

Sugar may somehow satisfy a growing child's need for extra calories, but regular consumption of added sugar while young may course an unhealthy predisposition to sweets. Sweets taken close to mealtimes may also affect the child's appetite. In addition, sugar may create an environment that favors the growth and development of microorganisms that cause tooth decay.

The Importance of Milk and Good Eating Habits

Food habits are formed very early in life. As such, children should learn to eat a variety of healthy food, of the right amount, at the appropriate time. As part of a good diet, parents should encourage their kids to drink at least one glass of milk a day. Yet many milks on the market have added sugar in the form of sucrose.

To find out if there is added sugar in your child's milk, check the label. By law, manufacturers are required to list ingredients in order of quantity. Finding sugar near the top of that list is a red flag, a sign that you may want to look for a healthier alternative.

Filipino children aged 4-9 should not take more than 5 teaspoons of sugar a day.

NIDO FORTIFIED - No Added Sugar!

In contrast, NIDO FORTIFIED has no added sugar – only full cream milk with lactose, a natural milk sugar. What's more, NIDO FORTIFIED has the nutrients to support the 10 Signs of Good Nutrition. This is a simple checklist developed by the Nutritionist - Dietitians' Association of the Philippines Foundation to find out if your kids are properly nourished.

Give your kids a proper diet and NIDO FORTIFIED. And discover the 10 Signs of Good Nutrition in them today.

Dr. Bruce German

- Senior Scientific Advisor of the Nestlé Research Center in Switzerland
- Professor at the Department of Food Science & Technology at the University of California, Davis, USA
- Multi-awarded professor and researcher with 30 years' experience and over 200 published studies
- One of the most highly cited scientists worldwide

The Nestlé Research Center, located in the rolling hills above Lausanne in Switzerland, the Nestlé Research Center is at the heart of Nestlé's network of 28 state-of-the-art research centers across the globe. With a staff of over 850, including more than 300 scientists of 50 different nationalities, the Nestlé Research Center is recognized by the scientific community as one of the leaders in food and nutrition science in the world today.

The role of the Nestlé Research Center is to generate information that would lead to new scientific breakthrough, producing unique technologies that will serve as the basis for the development and enhancement of Nestlé products worldwide. Its mission is to help provide consumers with food products that will not only pass the strictest standards of quality and safety, but also help improve the quality of life.

NIDO FORTIFIED is not a breastmilk substitute

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

ANGELICA Panganiban stays fit to keep up with her athletic beau, Derek Ramsay

To the next level

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ANGELICA Panganiban is curing to take their relationship with Derek Ramsay to another level.

They're not tying the knot; they're re-starting to a new movie—the pre-assisted directorial comeback of Laurice Guillen for Star Cinema.

"We've worked together a few times. I know him so well, but I'd like to discover the other side of him," the cold Capricorn Entertainment in a one-on-one interview at her lunch at a French Lady with Anne Curtis.

They've been a couple for "almost three years," she said. That's longer than most celebrity marriages. What's their secret?

"He's mature and I'm kinda like a child at times. That gives spice to our relationship," she noted.

She has also died baby fat since pairing up with hunky

TO PAGE E4

'Serbis' plaudits 'unexpected'

AFTER A DELUGE OF NEGATIVE REVIEWS at the Cannes International Film Festival last year, Brillante "Dante" Mendoza's "Serbis" opened in 126 theaters last week panicked by good reviews in The New York Times, LA Weekly, the Los Angeles Times and Time Out New York.

David Fear of Time Out New York wrote, "Serbis' bristles with frowners in revelry." LA Times' Kevin Thomas said the film "bursts with vitality, humor and ingenuity."

Calling from Pampanga, Mendoza told Inquirer that after the screening in Cannes, "I didn't expect them good reviews."

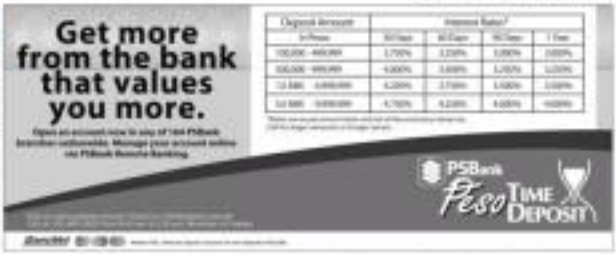
He said August Rodrigo, his North American distributor, invited key industry people to previews and set up interviews with NY Times and LA Weekly.

He said the most frequently asked question was "Is your film based on real life?"

Next stop for "Serbis" is the Asian Film Awards in Hong Kong, where is is nominated for three awards—Best Supporting Actress nomee for Gina Pareño and Jaclyn Jose and Best Director for Mendoza.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

"Your program is powerful and moving. May you have more success!"
Louie Punzalan
FZ 108 DWIZ
Study of VERNON TAPALLA'S
Conference Building • Seminar
Personality Dev't. • Rapid Reading
MANILA: (02) 521-7031 to 35 ALABANG: (02) 850-2448



SM CINEMA movietime

www.smcinema.com

SM

cinexpo

Feb. 17 – 18, 2009

SMX Convention Center

Experience the Newest Movie Ride
Motion Sim
3D Digital Movie Rides
Concession
Bingo Game
Q&A Table
Star Chronicles
Video Photo
Picture

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW!

RESERVE ONLINE
www.smtickets.ph

METRO MANILA

RESERVED SEATS NOW AVAILABLE

IMAX

FLY ME TO THE MOON
BEA MONSTER
DINOSAURS

PODIUM

AUSTRALIA
INKHEART
LATE SCREENINGS

CINEMA 1

BEDTIME STORIES

LUZON

VISAYAS • MINDANAO

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 UNDERWORLD 3
2 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA
3 SAW V
4 AUSTRALIA
5 STATUS: SINGLE
6 INKHEART
7 BUTAS
8
9 YES MAN
10 LOVE ME AGAIN

ERMITA

1 AUSTRALIA
2 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA
3 UNDERWORLD 3
4 INKHEART
5 STATUS: SINGLE
6 SAW V
7 LOVE ME AGAIN
8 BUTAS
9 BRIDE WARS / YES MAN

METRO EAST

1 SAW V
2 UNDERWORLD 3
3 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA
4 STATUS: SINGLE
5 INKHEART
6 AUSTRALIA
7 YES MAN
8 LOVE ME AGAIN

NOVALICHES

1 AUSTRALIA
2 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA
3 INKHEART
4 UNDERWORLD 3
5 SAW V
6 STATUS: SINGLE

PIONEER

1 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA
2 INKHEART
3 UNDERWORLD 3
4 AUSTRALIA

MOVIEWORLD

STA. ROSA

1 UNDERWORLD 3
2 AUSTRALIA
3 SAW V
4 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA
5 STATUS: SINGLE

LIPA

1 TRANSPORTER 3
2 STATUS: SINGLE
3 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA
4 LOVE ME AGAIN

DASMARINAS

1 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA
2 UNDERWORLD 3
3 SAW V
4 STATUS: SINGLE
5 AUSTRALIA

IMUS

1 AUSTRALIA
2 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA
3 UNDERWORLD 3
4 STATUS: SINGLE
5 SAW V

ANGELES

1 UNDERWORLD 3
2 STATUS: SINGLE
3 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA
4 AUSTRALIA

STARMILLS

1 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA
2 LOVE ME AGAIN
3 STATUS: SINGLE
4 AUSTRALIA
5 UNDERWORLD 3
6 SAW V

BACOLOD

1 INKHEART
2 THE CURIOUS CASE of BENJAMIN BUTTON
3 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA
4 TRANSPORTER 3
5 STATUS: SINGLE
6 BUTAS

ILOILO

1 AUSTRALIA
2 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA
3 STATUS: SINGLE
4 INKHEART
5 TRANSPORTER 3
6 BUTAS

NOW SHOWING @ MOVIEWORLD

GMA 7: Granada not a co-author

By Pharnel S. Cruz

BROADCAST NETWORK GMA 7 SAID IT has "called the attention" of the composer of a Bayanihan jingle, which singer-songwriter Gary Granada claims to have used the basic structure of his own work.

"We are still awaiting for the response," GMA 7 senior vice president for legal affairs Atty. B. Percy told inquirers on Friday.

In a 10-minute audio file sent via e-mail to friends, colleagues and the media, Granada said GMA Kapuso Foundation commissioned his services for the jingle's music. He said the study tape he submitted was disapproved, but that the final product, aired in December, resembled his work.

In a statement sent to the Inquirer on Saturday, Perez said the foundation "had nothing to do with the composition of the music." Perez also said the letter given to Granada to work on came from GMA TV's marketing department.

Granada said he had to change one word to suit the music. Under copyright laws, Perez countered, this "does not make [it]... his version." Perez added that Granada can't claim joint authorship, either. "Under authorship assumed (if there was an intent between two parties to be joint authors at the time the work was created, and 2) the contributions to the work of the party claiming to be a joint author must be independently copyrightable."

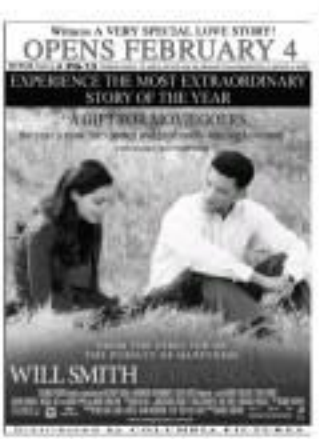
Granada's case lack these requisites, Perez insisted. He said Granada was engaged to write the music to lyrics "completed by GMA thinkers-ing. Neither GMA Marketing nor Granada is entitled to be joint authors of [said] lyrics."

RP artists need no more legislation

From Reuters de Guia (musicologists, Creating Productions):

"This is in response to the Inquirer story (Jan. 25) suggesting that an entire month (any February) every year be an exclusive all-Filipino entertainment month. [The MMFF model] is not applicable to the concert industry. Letting out foreign acts for a month period will be a disservice to the public. When foreign performers go on tour, the window of availability for [any given] country is very small. Artists do not have time in their touring schedules to perform in other countries. Neither would they [plan] an isolated class. And what if a Filipino artist—say Rufus Hermosa, 132 or Madonna—goes on tour in February? We will be deprived of access to a fabulous event. Filipino artists can now stand toe-to-toe with foreign artists and actually win at the box office. There is no need to legislate special protection for them! Besides we can very easily [tap] my favorite OPM pro [AMC Ont. at least] to talent importer/concert promoter. ... ALL

FEEDBACK



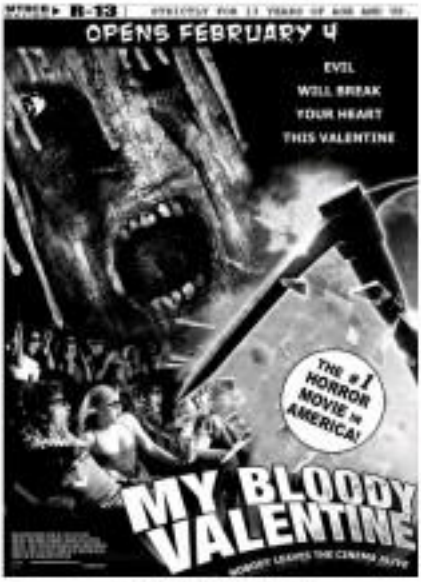
Choose your . . .

From page E3

Valentine dress:
Bugoy: Being with a special someone.
Or:
Miguel: Spending the whole day with the one you love.
Lhuid: Dinner and talk with a special someone.

Who's your fantasy date?
Lhuid: Socrates, god of war.
Bugoy: Lizard Queen.
Miguel: none. Carrie and Angel Locsin.
Lhuid: Nick Perozzi and Rica Peralejo.

What's the most romantic love song?
Lourin: "How Did You Know" by Gary V.
Bugoy: "Endless Love."
Miguel: "Dyed Change."
Lhuid: "Twice That Moment Of Do."



'Dinagyang' with . . .

From page E3

Ayalas long routine on your commercials, pa napuna ninyo rin ako." I blabbed here. "What you want will prevail."

As the tribes paraded with their painted faces, the Bangus "Kapamilyas" (skirts) ear sounds and walks (my own brand of his. Living up to the meaning of "Dinagyang" (does-ing, more-making), the Kapamilya (not really) steals Saren dance for me.

PERSONAL

Idolores girl my sister" is ADO-GIRL Kerry Sob, Nikki Gonzales, Dawn Grieto-Bot, Michelle Aubrehed and Jennifer Bolotos for an unforgettable Kapamilya weekend, and to my Dolo "Intelo"—Angel and Gel Luring. Elaine Herring, Dolk and Toni Luring, Linds Pagalan, Princess Gervalone, Alex delCiel, John Castigador, Zeddy Zamora and Benny Thomas for giving me more reasons to keep coming back to my second home, Iloilo.

Email warning: lolohangin@yahoo.com

To the . . .

From page E1

Derek, who's very athletic and active.

"We play ultimate Frisbee," she said. "And I try to go to the gym weekly."

Angelica needs to stay fit, not only to keep up with Derek, but because she will shuttle between the movie and a new ABS-CBN series starring the movie.

Granted, engaged her 2004 heartbreaking film "Basic Instinct," Angelica, "I'm happy to work with Derek again. This one's a world away from 'Basic.'"

She plays the role of an embedded reporter between two actors, to be played by Derek and Gabby Concepcion.

The award-winning actress didn't say how her fiancé is as an adult—a Cum Filipino Academy Best Supporting Actress for "A Love Story."

Gabby was her co-star in the way "Bea Po Limcaoco," and "one of the nicest guys I've met in show biz," she said. "He's fun, and dramatic, give you heartaches."

ComicRelief

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

& LITH — BY JEL MARAYA

FUSSO BARDY — BY PP. JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOVEHKNOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHERRIS

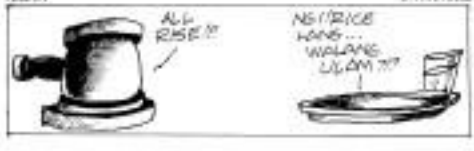
JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PABALINAS

BARRY BLUES — BY BARRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEEDY — BY LORA GARCELLANO

FULBOK — BY MARA COLL



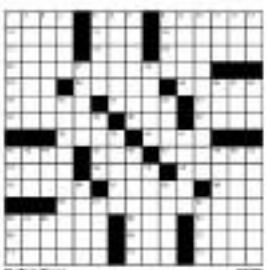
RIKO MACHINE — BY MARK ASHEN

BEN — BY SAMUEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Jazz singing
5 Beach bird
8 Synthesized
(2)
14 Hollywood
Exhibit
15 SOMEC (2)
16 Actress Clark
17 Pre-set reflect
18 Dumbbell
19 Federal board
20 Without
warning
22 Business Leaders
23 Spotlight (2)
Mary Tyler
Moore Show"
25 Business and
Leisure
29 Day on Beyond
(2)
30 Pre-
Depending month
31 Push (2)
34 Driving rate
allegiance
36 Sorrow
37 Adhesive
38 Self-righteous
(2)
42 Sadness
43 Mother's object
45 "Home" network
47 Rainbows
51 Ground
Museum city
52 Bedroom
54 Computer
55 Sales Associate
57 Napoleon's
location
58 Pre-
Depending month
59 Good substance
(2)
60 Jamestown state
63 Low mark
66 Work all, don't
67 Look up
68 Hard-mouthy
69 Low weight
70 Close enclosed
71 Small spot of
flag markings
72 Prefix - alpine
73 Spectacles

DOWN
1 Individual
particulars
2 Of Napoleon's
senior army



By Ron Pisco
Chicago, IL

2 Saddle
3 Financial term
4 Fish-eyed
5 Fairy
6 Mock-serious
7 Support bar
8 Time travel
9 Something to
remember
10 Activist Arthur
11 Kenai
12 Coming - in
13 Old Hollywood
lawyer
21 Foundations
24 Mail procedure
26 Game by
Scrabble
27 Mikhail Baryshnikov
dance
28 Words like
answers
32 Stone-spear-
touching
33 Pierce
35 Bandit's wound
40 Lacrosse
41 &2020 planner
44 Snowshoe
swing
46 Like bikes and
tennis
48 Actress de
Havilland
49 Legacy
50 Palindromic
name
53 Greek letter
56 Some thrown
tantrums
61 Rice, Curry or
Tandy
62 Was into office
64 Leader Hawkeyes
65 Legacy
66 Pertaining to
gas

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

FOR BORN TODAY: Most of you are sophisticated and polished. You're one of the brightest of all signs. You probably would have a role to play in your social set. You value things that last. Some may be jewelry but you're also the "responsible" friend every others fights to have. You could be one of the top performing pros in their field and a real success. Time is now on.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're a real take-charge kind of person. You may find yourself in the middle of a crisis. Your quick thinking and ability to remain calm will help you through it. Your ability to see the big picture is invaluable.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have a real knack for understanding other people's motivations. Your ability to read between the lines is a valuable asset. You're a natural diplomat.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're a real people person. You're good with words and you're not afraid to use them. You're a great communicator. You're also a real thinker. You're always trying to figure out how things work.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're a real nurturer. You're always there for your friends and family. You're a real shoulder to cry on. You're also a real thinker. You're always trying to figure out how things work.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're a real leader. You're always in charge. You're a real thinker. You're always trying to figure out how things work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're a real thinker. You're always trying to figure out how things work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're a real people person. You're good with words and you're not afraid to use them. You're a great communicator. You're also a real thinker. You're always trying to figure out how things work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're a real thinker. You're always trying to figure out how things work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're a real thinker. You're always trying to figure out how things work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're a real thinker. You're always trying to figure out how things work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're a real thinker. You're always trying to figure out how things work.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're a real thinker. You're always trying to figure out how things work.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Concepts Sudoku

By Dave Green

8	5				7	4		
4		7		3	9		2	
	2							1
					1		9	6
	3						5	
6	8		5					
5							6	
	9		4	1		3		7
		4	6				1	2

2009easily Level ★

©2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	3	9	5	1	2	7	8	4
5	7	2	8	6	4	3	9	1
4	1	8	7	3	9	6	2	5
2	5	4	3	7	1	9	6	8
3	8	6	9	5	4	1	7	2
1	9	7	2	8	6	5	4	3
7	6	1	4	2	5	8	3	9
9	2	5	6	9	3	4	1	7
8	4	3	1	9	7	2	5	6

CHEETING Reyes sings "Bukas Pigainan Ka Lang" with a male member of the audience (L) and Sen Ejercito Estrada, emcee.

'Dinagyang' with a bang for this Ilongga at heart

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Even the stars had a blast

BEING AN ILONGGA AT HEART, I DROP everything to attend the Dinagyang festivities every January in the "City of Love." But I enjoyed this year's celebration with the Kapamilya network the most.

The festival, which commemorates the Christianization of the natives and it is home of the Ati- Nilo, was voted the Best Tourism Event for 2008, 2007 and 2006 by the Association of Tourism Officers in the Philippines.

ABS-CBN Iloilo made the fiesta all the more memorable with its Kapamilya Musikero "Dinagyew" at the Freedom Grandstand which was jam-packed with more than 15,000 fans. Dinagyo gamely joined icons to get a chance to be serenaded by Jake Lloyd Cruz and Candace Reyes.

Lucky Ilonggas

Cruise says the crowd is a frenzy when she did a duet with Ilonggo host Snobbey Caballero. Two lucky Ilonggas were on cloud nine as Cruise sang "Pipiliin" and "Ako" while screaming their's as if they were his "ka-love team."

The fun night was capped by Kamikazee's highly charged outshow. Jerkfits Bondes, Sam Concepcion and Vhong Navarro were outshined as their All Day Baby shows The Kamikazee emcee covered the various festivities from live polero and outdoor a stage truck as Thunderpussy hit free public showing.

Better broadcast quality

"Our current tie-up with Bayan and Skycable enables us to broadcast even better audio and video quality of our Dinagyang coverage and of local shows," said ABS-CBN Iloilo's (Channel 13) station manager Cherie Gimeo-Bay. These programs include "TV Patrol Iloilo," "Iloilo Ka Balita," "Must Be Iloilo," and "Mag-TV Ka Araga."

Everyone had a blast dancing to the beats of my fave DJ Jay Villarias at Iloilo's premier party place Flow Superclub.

'Very Special' sequel

I answered Lupita about his next movie with Sarah Geronimo. Will they have a kissing scene this time? "Since it's a sequel of 'A Very Special Love,' dapat nga hindi na dito ang pag-uusapan," he said. "It's a must to have even one kissing scene para ma-satisfy sa mga lovers." So Sarah's ready to kiss her sweet image goodbye?

Lupita is also excited about his movie with Vilma Santos where he will portray the gay lover of Luis Manzano. "It's not a screaming flaggy type of role. Luis and I will be the typical gay lovers in New York where most of the film will be shot." Leave the flamboyance to Boy Goodenough.

Not in touch

I asked Celestine if she would greet her ex Derrick Wills on Valentine's Day. "We don't keep in touch anymore," she said. "He doesn't know my new number. Hmm naman kami.

CONTINUED 24

CHOOSE YOUR Valentine SHOW

MIGUEL Mendoza, LIZZIE Garcia, LUARNI Lozada and BUGOY Drilon

EIGHT YEAR, INQUIRER ENTERTAINMENT helps readers pick the best show for their special date. This is Part 3 of the series.

Luarni Lozada, Bugoy Drilon, Lizzel Garcia, Miguel Mendoza

"Bistec: A Valentine's Night with the Scholars"
Feb. 13, 8 p.m.
Starsky's Resto Museo, Quezon City

When you're not doing a concert, how do you mark Valentine's?

Luarni: Most I'm away from my family and my special someone, I spend time with friends.

Bugoy: Bonding with my family
Miguel: Date my gal or to dinner
Lizzel: Up-eat with friends.

What's your most romantic Valentine's Day ever?

Luarni: In front of Makati Church, my first two and I revealed each other's feelings. Suddenly it rained. We knew it was God's blessing.

Bugoy: I have never been in a relationship.

Miguel: When I asked a long-time friend to be my GF.

Lizzel: When my crush gave me roses.

What's an ideal Valentine date?

Luarni: Right now it's having my mom.

CHOOSE 24

ALAY NAMIN SA INYO, KAPUSO
ANG MGA KARANGALANG MULA SA
2009 New York *festivals*
Recognizing the World's Best Works™

LEARNING

Editor Chris Bueza Fermoso

- **The Magic Circle** Chapter 2 with student activity guide, art contest and sidebar feature / F4
- **Eureka!** concludes 2-part column on why East Asians ace math F3

Education and equality go hand in hand

By Lester R. Brown
Earth Policy Institute

THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC gap between the world's richest 1 billion people and its poorest 1 billion has no historical precedent. Not only is the gap wide, it is widening. The poorest billion are trapped at subsistence level and the richest billion are becoming wealthier with each passing year.

One way of narrowing the gap between rich and poor segments of society is by ensuring universal education. This means making sure that the 72 million children not enrolled in school are able to attend. Children without any formal education are starting life with a severe handicap, one that almost ensures they will remain in abject poverty and that the gap between the poor and the rich will continue to widen.

In an increasingly integrated world, this widening gap itself becomes a source of instability. Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen focuses the point: "Illiteracy and innumeracy are a greater threat to humanity than terrorism."

Will support

In the effort to achieve universal primary education, the World Bank has taken the lead with an Education for All plan, whereby every country with a well-designed plan to achieve this goal is eligible for Bank financial support.

The three principal requirements are that a country submit a credible plan to reach universal basic education, commit a meaningful share of its own resources to the plan, and have a transparent budgeting and accounting practices. If fully implemented, all children in poor countries would get primary school education by 2015, helping them to break out of poverty.

Jessica Cohen of the World Bank's Education for All Fast Track Initiative Secretariat explains that the Bank's support is "meant to help countries move from planning to implementation." In 2000, some 79 percent of children were completing primary school, while by 2005 this figure reached 83 percent.

Since leaving the Bank last autumn, however, World Bank officials have concluded that only 60 of the 152 developing countries for which data are available will reach the goal of universal primary school education by 2015.

More girls

Poverty is largely inherited. The overwhelming majority of those living in poverty today are the children of people who lived in poverty. The key to breaking out of the culture of poverty is education—particularly the education of girls. As female education level rises, fertility falls. And mothers with at least four years of school have been found to be nearly 50 percent more likely to send their children to school than those who are illiterate.

Illiteracy and innumeracy are a greater threat to humanity than terrorism —Nobel Prize winning economist Amartya Sen

Economist Gene Sperling concluded in a 2004 study of 72 countries that "the expansion of female secondary education may be the single best lever for achieving substantial reductions in fertility."

Sperling believes that every plan should provide for getting to the hardest-to-reach segments of society, especially poor girls in rural areas. He notes that Ethiopia has pioneered this with Girls Advisory Committees. Representatives of these groups go to the parents who are seeking early marriage for their daughters and encourage them to keep these girls in school.

Some countries, Brazil and Bangladesh among them, actually provide small scholarships for girls or stipends to their parents where needed, thus helping those from poor families get a basic education.

Productivity

Basic education tends to increase agricultural productivity. Agricultural extension assistance that can be printed counts for little if illiterate farmers do not know how to read the instructions. Even if the instructions are a big if for them. The ability to send to the children on a predictable calendar can be life saving.

Teacher training

One great need in developing countries, particularly those where the ranks of teachers are being decimated by AIDS, is more teacher training. Providing scholarships for promising students from poor families to attend training institutes in exchange for a commitment to teach for, say, five years, could be a highly profitable investment. It would help ensure that the teaching resources are available to reach universal primary education, and it would also foster an upgrading of talent from the poorest segments of society.

An estimated $10 billion in external funding, beyond what is being spent today, is needed for the world to achieve universal primary education. At a time when education gives children more not only to broaden but also to personal enrichment and the Internet, having children who never go to school is no longer acceptable.

Lured by lunch

Free lunches not to get children to school are as effective as school lunch programs, especially in the poorest countries. Since 1946, every American child in public school has had access to school lunch programs, ensuring at least one good meal each day. There is an obvious payoff for the health of this nation's children.

Children who are ill or hungry miss many days of school. And even when they can attend, they do not learn as well. Jeffrey Sachs of the Earth Institute at Columbia University notes, "rich children can lose a lifetime of accumulated productivity because of intestinal worms in schooling together with cognitive and physical impairment."

But when school lunch programs are launched in low-income countries, school enrollment jumps, the children's academic performance goes up, and children spend more years in school. Girls benefit especially. Down in school by the lunch, they stay in school longer, marry later, and have fewer children.

This is a win-win-win situation. Launching school lunch programs in the 44 lowest-income countries would cost an estimated $6 billion per year beyond what the United Nations is now spending to reduce hunger.

Greater efforts are also needed to improve nutrition before children even get to school age, as their cognitive development can be permanently impaired by malnutrition during the first two years of life. Micronutrient supplements for pregnant women and children under two can be very cost-effective.

In a world where vast wealth is accumulating among the rich, it makes little sense for children to go to school hungry.

(Adapted from Chapter 7, "Building Every Bioenergy Stabilizing Population," in Lester R. Brown, Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2008). Visit www.earthpolicy.org

Test-Based review for
UP, Ateneo, La Salle
and other colleges
AHEAD

www.ahead.ph

Access your e-mail with the hottest Nokia phone from Sun.

Nokia 2680
- Enhanced internet experience with e-mail
- FM radio & recording
- WAP, Bluetooth, GPRS
- VGA camera & video
- FREE at Plan ₱350*
- 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited**
- Plus 250 texts to other networks
Also available at Group Plan 999*
Hurry to The Sun Shops now!
* 20-month holding period.
** Local Sun-to-Sun calls & texts only.
NOKIA
Hotline: 305-0000 • www.suncellular.com.ph
sun CELLULAR

CIS joins Cebu's Sinulog festivities

THE CEBU International School joined for the first time the celebration of Cebu's dance parade festival, the Sinulog, in order to experience local culture. The school organized the first CIS Sinulog Family Day. The event featured a trade fair, Sinulog dancers in colorful costumes and indigenous games like jolo cacho.

The Parent Teacher Association organized a potluck lunch consisting of famous Cebuanitas like lechon baboy, rice cooked in coconut milk and vinegar, comelly pusena, local noodles and desserts. Cebu International School is located in Pit-os, Talamban, Cebu City. Visit www.cis.edu.ph.

CIS COMMUNITY joins in Sinulog dancing.

CIS SUPERINTENDENT Deidre Peshes dances, too!

UP Diliman team wins IRC, heads for regional contest in Singapore

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Diliman's Amateur Investments team will represent the country in the regional Investment Research Challenge (IRC) in Ateneo in Singapore. Organized by CIMA Institute, the global IRC aims to educate the student in fundamental research analysis. The UP team is composed of Glenn Arturo Co, John Edward Lobia, Nikki Isabel Lazaro, Ralph Joseph Pantua and Mark Rome Faice. Nine-called Team CFA Philippines, it recorded a cash prize of P100,000. Winner of the Singapore regional competition will receive US$5,000 and will compete in the global IRC in London for the top prize of US$15,000. Citibank, Bloomberg, Philippine Stock Exchange, and Saudi sponsored the country's first investment research challenge.

PCC/PUP high school Class '69 marks 40th

THE POLYTECHNIC University of the Philippines (formerly Philippine College of Commerce) high school Class 1969 will hold a reunion, Feb. 27-March 1, in mark its 40th anniversary. To be held at the Ilalo Park, Sta.m.-Cy.m., the event will include its Blue Ribbon campus on Lagasca and Sulo de Lindo Park on the same street. The class is currently organizing a pa-tricked program for children near the railroad tracks in Bambino. Overlooking the affair is PCC/PUP 69 president Cosalee Sia Awa, with Aurora de Leon and Ai-ko Limsangan. Class '69 members can call 5270948 or 09189380585, or visit the Fu-kien Groups Bakuh '69.

Adamson Foundation Week, Feb. 7-14

ADAMSON University will celebrate its 77th Foundation week Feb. 7-14 with a series of activities starting with the Grand Alumni Homecoming on Feb. 7, 4 p.m., to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the establishment of the Adamson University Alumni Association Inc. Other activities include institutional parade, Coalition Dinner-Ball, and Search for Mr. & Ms. Adamsonian on Feb. 12; institutional awards on Feb. 13 and opening of the Adamson Alumni Basketball League at the university gym. Founded by Greek scholar Dr. George Lucas Adamson, the school became a Catholic educational institution when it was transferred to the Vicentians or Congregation of the Mission.

FEU conducts law education seminar

THE FAR EAST UNIVERSITY will conduct the Mandatory Continuing Law Education seminar Feb. 21-22, 28 and March 1 at the University Conference Center. The FEU Center for Continuing Education, with the Institute of Law, has civil enforcement and secured transactions of the Court of Appeals, tort claims and practitioners, tax transactions and tax remedies, as lectures. Fees: will include legal and judicial ethics, international legal processes, arbitration, updates in civil law, trial and pre-trial skills, environmental law, legal writing and international law. Call 7366000 or 7360000.

DOLPHY and STI officials sign a scholarship agreement.

STL Dolphy launch scholarship program

THE DOLPHY Art Para Sa Pinoy Foundation has made STI its official educational partner to its scholarship program for deserving children of overseas Filipino workers (OFW). The veteran comedian and his son Eric Garcia, president of the Dolphy Art Para Sa Pinoy Foundation, signed the agreement for the project to be called the STI-Dolphy Art Scholarship Program, with STI president and chief executive officer Monica P. Jacela and STI vice president for communications Efren L. de Guzman. Also present during the signing were Dolphy's children Vicandren, Pancho and Zia, and grandson Boy D, as well as close family friends. Under the program, ten qualified applicants will receive scholarships to a two-year technical-vocational technology course at any STI campus.

Perpetual holds grand alumni homecoming

THE PERPETUAL Help College of Manila celebrates 40 years of value-education through "Kapitbahayan: The First PHCM Grand Alumni Homecoming," Feb. 28, 6 p.m., at the Grand Ballroom of Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila Hotel, Ortigas City. For details and to register, visit the Facebook or call 71-1441 to 45, 7511368 locally or e-mail phcmalumni@yahoo.com or ephsyahoo.ibigmail.com.

Seton launches 35 at 35 Program

THE ELIZABETH Seton School celebrates its 35th anniversary by launching the 35 at 35 program for school years 2008-2010. Seton will offer a price rollback on tuition fees in the nursery and kinder-garten levels. The school is currently accepting a Full examination of the pre-school building, dubbing it a fit-ness-of-the-art equipment. For details, visit www.sos.edu.ph.

Stanford professor to speak at the UA&P

WAI-S. LEE, a professor at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business, will talk on "Creating Value with Supply Chain Excellence" at the 3rd Italian Chair Seminar, Feb. 12, 8:30 a.m., Li Seng Giap Auditorium, Univer-sity of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P). The seminar is sponsored by the GS Group and the Li & Fong Group, in collaboration with UA&P's School of Management (SOM). Dr. Victor N. Fong, chair of the Li & Fong Group, will talk on "The Development of Supply Chain Management and Logistics in the China Economy." GS Group managing director Dan Chang will talk on "Implementing Value-Chain Logistics." Call Elsa Lapointe, 6378910 local 382.

LEE

FONG

Publisher Tony Lopez lectures at UST

BUSINESS journalist Antonio "Tony" Lopez will deliver the sixth UST Bandalan-Jose Blo. Pangandaman (JBP) Lecture on Journalism, "The Press and the Global Financial Crisis," on Feb. 6, 2 p.m., at the University of Santo Tomas Miguel de Benavides Gastric Library. Lopez, former Business World Manila chief, is president-publisher of Bulletin Asia and board chair of the Manila Overseas Press Club. The JBP Lecture, named after the Varsitarian founder, is an annual lecture on media ca-reers by a familiar-son or UST alumnus. It is endorsed by the Bandalan and co-organized by the UST Journalism Society. Reservations must be made by Feb. 3. Call 406-1611 local 8295 or 8305-4332/78. Meanwhile, the 42nd Science Week will be held Feb. 2-6 with the theme "Embracing Good Science." Activities are open to the public. Call 406-1611 loc. 8360-61/8921-8984/86; e-mail angela@scitechnetwork.com.

CEU programs get Level IV accreditation

CENTRO Escolar University's School of Science and Technology received the first Level IV accreditation for its biology and psychology programs from the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACU-COA). The prestigious event cited for their remarkable track record in research, planning, and career planning and development for students. The commission also cited the School of Science and Technology for taking with its diversity partners and its support to government and nongovernment outreach programs. With the recognition, the school was authorized to offer new graduate programs allied to existing Level III courses, upon securing the appropriate education and extension courses without prior approval of the Commission on Higher Education.

PNU hosts volunteers' workshop in Cadiz City

THE UNITED Nations Volunteers (UNV) program is holding a series of two-day workshops, "ISTU Youth Empowerment Series 4 MDGs!," jointly with the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Olympic. The Philippine Normal University will host a workshop in Cadiz City, Feb. 21-22, another workshop will be held at the University of Northern Philippines in Vigan City, Feb. 10-11. Some 40 participants aged 18-25 are expected to attend. The UNV, a leading advocate of civic engagement to develop and mobilize through volunteerism, is administered by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Playgrounds for the Mind

KUMON

STI

UE

UIC

EUREKA! *Queenie N. Lee Chua*

Why East Asians do well in math

Rice, it seems, has a lot to do with why Orientals are better with numbers

Extended Layout

LAST WEEK WE LOOKED AT why East Asians – the Chinese, Japanese, and Koreans – excel in mathematics. Language is a factor. Number names are more logical and more intuitive in Chinese than in English, and concepts such as fractions are more easily grasped.

Hard work, stemming from the Confucian culture that perseverance pays off in the end, is another factor. Chinese 4-Hapon schools hold much classes twice a day, which means double the assignments, double the experience, double the effort.

Rice paddies

In his book "Outliers: The Story of Success," Business and social writer Malcolm Gladwell has a fascinating theory. East Asians work so hard because they come from a rice culture. Rice has a lot to do with math.

A rice paddy is one-fifth as much of an acre, about as big as a basketball court. A typical village of 1,500 people in China lives on 450 acres of land which is the size of a family farm in the American Midwest, supporting around six people.

What rice agriculture requires is labor and more labor, chronically-inclined, famous replace human labor with machines and strive to use better equipment, like fertilizers or varieties. That, Westerns farmers get more yield and till more land with the same amount of (or even less) effort.

But in China or Japan, there is little extra land and practical to no money for equipment. And rice planting is very hard work.

Rice paddies are huts, not opened up like wheat fields. Clearing and plowing are not enough—fields are carved into mountainsides in terraces, or constructed from river deltas.

A complicated set of dikes is built around the paddies to ensure the right amount of water. Seedlings are planted in carefully-engineered clay beers, with proper drainage and fertilization. For much or too little first three can ruin a harvest.

Farmers need to plant the right variety, painstakingly transplant seedlings, diligently weed beds, and promptly harvest at the proper time. "Rice demand almost every working moment of every day," Gladwell says. "Without rice, you don't survive."

Unlike the machine-oriented culture of the West, Chinese agriculture is skills-oriented. "If you are willing to weed a bit more diligently, and become more adept at fertilizing, and spend a bit more time monitoring water levels, and do a better job keeping the diseases absolutely level, and make sure of every square inch of your paddy, you'll harvest a bigger crop," Gladwell says. Throughout history, not surprisingly, the people who grow rice have always worked harder than almost any other kind of farmer."

Western farming

Of course Western farmers work hard, too, don't they? Gladwell tells us to think again. In the 18th century, European peasants worked from dawn to noon 200 days a year, around 1,200 hours of work annually. During harvest season, they worked more, and much less in the winter.

Historian Graham Robb says 99 percent of French country life took place between late spring and early autumn. In the Pyrenees and the Alps, villages rise from the first snow in November to all thaw in April. In short, European farm life consisted of short episodes of work followed by long periods of rest.

Of course, rest is essential. Robb says, after harvests, "these vigorous men will now spend their days in bed, yanking their bodies rightly together in order to stay warm and store less food. They awaken themselves deliberately. Unwilling the metabolic rate, they consumed hunger from unloading supplies."

But Gladwell says Chinese farmers did not sleep through the winter. They made bamboo baskets, repaired dikes, or exhibit small bars. They made tofu and caught snakes for food. When spring came, they went back in the fields.

"Working in a rice field is never or twenty times more labor intensive than working on an equivalent size corn or wheat field," he says. "Some estimates put the annual workload at a rice farmer in Asia at three thousand hours a year."

This is more than double the hours of Western farmers.

Finding meaning in work

What kept the Chinese going? This is the good news. Unlike Western farmers who were trapped in the feudal system, Chinese farmers were never slaves.

"Growing rice is too complicated and intensive for a system that requires farmers to be coerced and huddled into gang-size units," Gladwell says. "Chinese farmers were never slaves.

"Growing rice is too complicated and intensive for a system that requires farmers to be coerced and huddled into gang-size units," the fields each morning," Gladwell says. "Landlords had an almost completely hands-off relationship with their tenants—they would collect a fixed rent and let farmers go about their business."

In rice planting, it does matter that the field is level, the fertilizer is exact, and the seedlings are the right distance. No hard-and-fast instructions, like Band-rowers, advise that land best gets 28 baskets, regardless of the harvest. If the harvest is bountiful, farmers get a bigger drum.

Chinese farmers have the freedom and the incentive to do their job well, then they find meaning in it...despite the long hours of labor.

Compare the proverbs of Russian and Chinese farmers. Russian peasants say "If God does not bring it, the earth will not give it." This is pessimistic, the result of a repressive system. In the Chinese, they say "Heaven helps their beliefs: "Without effort, without sweat." "To winnow the hay man freezes to death." "Don't depend on heaven for good, but on your own two hands carrying the load." And best of all, "No one who ate the Imbon dense 360 days a year fails to make his family lyrate."

One question I want to ask Gladwell is, since the Philippines is also a rice culture, why aren't Filipinos as good in math?

But perhaps I already know the answer. By several accounts, our forefathers were extremely hardworking. And think of the effort required to build the Banaue Rice Terraces! Because who live in the mountains in the Bagnio, are renowned to this day for their math and diligence.

But when we were colonized and oppressed by a culture with carrots and blind devotion to God ("Bahala na!"), then things might have changed. When we were further influenced by the Americans, we also learned their ways, both good and bad.

Back in China. With such a history, working long hours at math is child's play. But since East Asian children are drenched math methods, concepts, numbers, they can endure long hours and persist by home their skills in the far-off fear, in the end, they will be successful.

The secret to math success is not genetic or innate talent, but environment, family, culture.

Outliers, The Story of Success" (Malcolm Gladwell, 2008) is available in bookstores, 3rd floor, Robinson's Galleria, tel. 6382046-49 and e-mail nbookstore@robinsonsgalleria.com.ph.

E-mail Queenie N. Lee Chua at freakish@yahoo.com.

For winning essayists, it's easy being green

MARIKIT MARIE RAMOS, A SENIOR at the Pasig City Science High School (PCSHS), topped the recent 6th World Environment Day Essay Writing Contest.

Ramos received P25,000 and a personal computer for her essay "Living Green, Breathing Free". Her victory in the seven-a-computer ran for her school.

The contest was sponsored by Inquirer, Inc., SK Global Power Corp., the Ateneo Foundation, 2020 and the United Nations.

In her essay, Ramos said, "Climate change is a challenge for everyone. It knows no age and crosses all walks of life. Hence, each one of us can serve as soldiers against global warming and could contribute a lot in reducing its threat."

Joanna Michelle Dumpit of the Ayala National High School in Antipolo City was second while Hannah Camille Bustillos of the University of Baguio Science High School in Baguio City was third. They received P15,000 and P10,000, respectively.

Five other finalists from PCSHS, Ateneo High School, Laguna State Polytechnic University and San Antonio National High School received P5,000 each.

The essay contest aimed to promote among the youth a deeper understanding of and appreciation for clean and renewable energy and to increase public awareness of environmental issues like climate change and sustainable development.

A total of 370 participants joined the contest this year. Entries were sent through 200 e-mails and snowfalls.

The on-the-spot finals on the theme "It's Easy to Be Green: My Contribution to the Effort against Global Warming" encouraged students to suggest practical, easy-to-do activities that would help save the environment.

Hedcor president Rene Banquille Jr., through the contest, the division energy company hoped to educate the youth and make them think about the future. He stressed Hedcor's commitment to develop clean and renewable energy. Through its product, Greenergy, he said environmentally and socially responsible consumers had the opportunity to make a positive difference.

Hedcor, an Ayala Power Corp. (PSE: AP) subsidiary, owns and operates 21 run-of-river hydropower plants in Bengues and Davao with a total capacity of 98.22 megawatts generating an average of 360 million kilowatt-hours of clean energy annually.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS Winners, organizers and judges celebrate the 6th World Environment Day Essay Writing Contest awarding Ceremony. Standing (from left): Patrick Pierre de and Ria Calleja of 2020; Hannah Camille Bustillos (third place), Hedcor president and CEO Rene Banquille, Inquirer assistant business editor Carrie Nariano, Marikit Marie Ramos (champion), Ateneo Foundation managing trustee Sonny Carpio, Joana Michelle de Ocampo (second place), UNIC information officer Agnes Alimar, SK Power of Norway country representative Deane Acuesca and (seated) other finalists.

ALCAZAREN'S film about 10 OFW provisioned recently on the Filipino movie channel Cinemo Dito.

Award-winning bank launches educational series

BANK OF PHILIPPINE ISLANDS (BPI) has launched a series of learning events called BPIfuture Life and BPIfuture Family Discovery designed to educate overseas Filipinos and their families about the possible financial, social and psychological issues they may encounter when a family member leaves for an other country.

The series, which covers the value of saving, financial survey and responsibility, is conducted by psychologists and counselors to guide the families.

BPI also produced recently a short film on the trials and travails of a modern-day hero, an IT professional who wants to leave the country for the proverbial greener pastures and whose story unfolds through the eyes of his only child, "Bayani," directed by veteran television commercial director Mike Alcazaren, premiered recently at Cinema One.

The BPIfuture program is conducted in helping OFWs not only by creating a variety of conservative and secure means to work to their beneficiaries, but also by launching initiatives that complement the program's objectives.

Aside from having specifically designed promotions to attract to spender 24/7, BPI also launched the search to honor the "The Outstanding Expat Pinoy Children," an awards program that recognizes the contributions of Filipino expatriates by promoting the value of education and building a culture of excellence among their children.

To promote the drive and inspire more Arabahanis to strive for excellence, BPI has also launched the 2008 BPIbuy Awards. Broadcast journalist Korina Sanchez of the Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and fashion designer Jesse Sucat were the 2008 awardees.

Through BPIbuy's product loans, one may conveniently send money in the Philippines through services such as Direct Credit to Accounts, Remittance Up where remittances can be claimed at any preferred BPI or BPI Family Bank location, Door-to-Door Delivery where remittances can be delivered by BPI right at your doorstep, or ego to have your remittances credited to another bank's account.

A three-time winner of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas "Top Commercial Bank for Overseas Filipino Remittances Award," BPI grew by more than 20 percent last year, registering close to $4 billion in remittances and representing more than 23 percent of total overseas Filipino workers' remittances to the country for that year.

Parenting seminar series

BECOME Mom-Preschool Domestic International School (an ISO candidate school), with Alaska Milk Corporation, presents a series of parenting seminars from mom-to-mom expert after parenting speaker Ms. Isabel Dionisio on Feb. 7 and 28 and March 14. 9 a.m.-12 noon, at the Bulle Hotel Dasmarinas, Iloilo Street, Bulle Verde 1, Pasig City. Call 5358743 or 8352002. Visit www.become-mom-domestic.com.

INQUIRER IN EDUCATION bench/

Life is a beach for turtles

Courtesy of WWF-Phil

GREEN SEA TURTLES HE-EDU their lives on schools. When the temperature is reasonable and the sand loose enough, tiny hatchlings dig through to the surface and make a mad dash towards the sea. Of the hundreds of hatchlings that come from one nest, less than one per cent will live long enough to reproduce.

Growth is an ongoing process for these curious creatures. A hatchling will drift with the ocean currents until it grows in size and weight to begin propelling itself in waves and shallow coastal areas. After about a decade it moves to adult feeding grounds in deeper water, often near the continental shelf.

After another decade or so they embark on one of the most astounding journeys in the animal world. When they are ready to breed, both sexes will return to their feeding grounds across oceans and through the territories of many nations, to the nesting beach of their birth.

Scientists still do not know how these turtles navigate and very little is known about further lives once they reproduce. These years of travel are referred to as "The Lost Years."

Marine turtles are the only endangered turtle species that range worldwide. Their shells, meat and eggs are sold for decorative purposes or as delicacies, often commanding high prices in local markets. Unfortunately, they are dying out. Unregulated egg collection, pollution, coastal development and the difficulty of coming up with conservational laws that protect the turtles in the many places they call home are contributing to the rapid decline of not just the Green Sea Turtle – but of all marine turtle species.

Turtles are important indicators of a living ocean.

The Environmental Education campaign of WWF-Philippines aims to educate and motivate the Filipino youth to actively participate in the overall process of conserving and preserving the Philippine environment. Visit www.wwf.org.ph.

Marine Green Sea Turtle
Scientific Name: Chelonia mydas
Status: Endangered under the 2003 IUCN—the World Conservation Union—Red List of Threatened Animals
Characteristics
Habitat and Distribution—Often known as black creatures
Size—140 to 220 cm; adult female
Weight—100 lbs.
Reproduction—Lays on average of 100 eggs per nest
Food—Carnivorous during its first year of life, vegetarian when it reaches adulthood; algae and sea grass are its favorite diet
Lifespan—80 years

INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

bench/

The Magic Circle

Chapter 2

(Last Monday: Chasing after his dog, Jepsy Bayhaylin found himself inside a magical tree, being ordered about by dwarf Pepsi, who invited him to a wedding.)

Story by Gilda Cordero-Fernando
Illustrations by Gilbert Dy-ay

TODAY WAS finally the wedding day of the two sikbalang. And Jepsy Bayhaylin was here.

He walked around the trunk. No sight of Doña Geronimo's palace. He waited. Eventually the sun set and the chattering stopped. Lights were on one by one inside the enchanted tree. He could hear the sikbalang sit down, spoons and forks being set.

He remembered what the dwarf had told him. Jepsy erased all the thoughts from his mind. He scanned his eyes and shut his ears to the incredible delicacies between his brows. The hamdagan began to drift. In front of him appeared a giant rainbow beginning from the far end of the horizon and ending at his feet. He remembered he dead before telling him that the rainbow was the bridge to heaven and it came down to earth.

Jepsy saw several encantadas descending the rainbow as if it were an escalator. He recognized Marilag Mukiling, Maitang Gandasan, Mustang Garan. They had beautiful hi-tech faces and long hair. They floated down the rainbow bridge and entered the door of light in the tree trunk. The door remained open and Jepsy knew it was for him.

The vast hall inside the tree was now brilliantly lighted by chandeliers made up of thousands of twinkling fireflies. There were so many varieties. Several dignified types had declined to fight their wigan in order not to pollute the occasion. The sprites from Mount Apo were flexing chanchabuy with a bachelor sikbalang. A handsome fairy was walking with a lion mananisalve. A bantilaok who claimed to be from Notre Dame was playing pussy with a Subanon princess. Through the door hambered a hundred-year-old carinosa. Rolling on its back was an anchor and withered nuno on piano wearing a gold collator.

Jepsy sighed and made his way to the kitchen. He found the twisted dwarf, Pepsi, having the time of his life. He was enthusiastically directing a battalion of elves in aprons. The dwarf whispered to Jepsy that he would not have to wash tonight's dishes.

Pepsi boasted of the three cooks he had hired for the occasion. They were critical among, he whispered. All their elves workers had been lavishing stuff in big cauldrons and so he knew they were experienced cooks. Plus, they could be counted on to salt the food, which would disgust the witches themselves lest so much as they would die occasion. The animal among had even signed a contract to cook only vegetarian, no dragon.

Wherever the among cooks needed to process some ingredient they had forgotten, they would divide at the mukti. And the upper half would float out of the window. The instead satellites, little sikbalang balls of light, usually seen in the fields, were hovering over the stove to see the fire needed re-lighting. The cheering watchers were buzzing with pride over the seven-foot high wedding cake they had baked. Its main ingredient was gadang, a magic root crop that had harnessed seven years under the earth.

The sikbalang bride and groom were really good looking home people. The bride had bleached her mane gold while the groom's red hair stood like spikes. Very much in love, they were squeezing cake into each other's mouths. The marriage ceremony was brief and non-denominational, meaning no priest, no pastor, no imam, no witch doctor, no retired encounter to dugaldon. They just cooked over love made cake to munch. Then they showed sagarooms. They promised to love each other till she would grow old.

In a related above are the legendary Doña Geronimo. Its use had to tell anyone that it was she. Everyone just knew Doña Geronimo was Inc. Inc. Inc. She was rich, rich, rich. And she had a most beautiful face, round as the moon. She had always been a friend of the enantos. Although she lived in the biggest house in town, no one had ever seen her because she was believed to be an invalid who never left her bedroom.

Doña Geronimo had put every other businessman (or woman) in the province out of business because she gave everything away. So can Santa wangis a few Christmases (and possibly Bill Gates) that she was the secret—to give everything away and you would get back double of everything. Hence she was the favorite among or every amount's wedding.

Most of the guests were gifted individuals, generally dismissed as abnormal. An epileptic was (Santa Inc. Inc.) guest of the evening. A chorus of yellow frogs who had just overcome a bad cold was the featured choir. One specialist's hidden talent was eating with its right paw. Four beggars who had come in their many forms Inc. Beppo were into their routine. The latest one was dancing, the insta-one, singing, the dead one, listening, and the blind one, vanishing. Some pigboa were scheduled to do a can-can, but didn't make it. They had stuffed up before the baths during the Christmas slaughters.

The gaiety heightened with the rigadon dance of the among. Since the ladies divided in half and had to change partners, the among had to make sure to always reunite with their correct pair. (For the audience, it settled the nagging question of whether the female among flew off with her skirt attached to her waist with the upper half or whether the garment remained on th- buzzd).

The dog Gali-i was doing an extreme dragon dance using the skirt of the among sahara. The dog had, in fact, ventured the skirt the first time around and Jepsy's mother had washed and ironed it again. And again the among sahara had worn it. But again Gali-i had snitched it from the line. Jepsy's mother had not even noticed because she was busy boiling an island.

It was not long before the boy figured out why he himself was there, what his handicap was. He was the poorest boy in town!

Next Monday: Their Origin

Student Activity Guide

Vocabulary

CIRCLE any words you do not understand. In groups, share the unknown words and use a dictionary to find their meanings. Make sentences using the words.

Here are some words from Philippine life and folklore, courtesy of author Gilda Cordero-Fernando:

Among—a creature of Philippine lore mythology that divides at the waist, its upper half can fly off and hunt for people whose blood they can sip. Unlike Dracula, they do not own their fangs (among teeth fangs are cute distinctions from Western tales). The among has a long throat the longer with a sharp end that can pierce through the nose next to target a pregnant victim in the room below. It punctures the belly to suck up the blood of the unborn child. *Among may be fictitious characters created by society (about people they dislike) to frighten children into obedience. Like making them come home before it gets dangerously dark.*

Dinuguan—a stew of pork blood and innards

Tikbalang—half-horse, half-human creature who can run as fast as the wind. If you can procure a few hairs from its head they say it will be your slave.

Nono sa punso—ancient male spirit who lives on top of a termite mound and is believed to guard treasure. Very cranky. *(See similar words on Inside, Page F2.)*

Idiwan—Modern priest in Mindanao

Bijakitan—a sinister bathroom dance that keeps changing partners

Think about it

1. What is additional costume and superstitions are woven into the story?

2. What details suggest that this story took place in modern times?

3. Do a research on the scientific explanation for a rainbow. Likewise do a research on legends and folktales about rainbows. How do they compare?

Using the lessons

In groups, plan a wedding by using objects, stones, photos and other details from the lessons. Call out all helpful information from the newspaper and put them together in "wedding organize." Determine a budget and, in school, make sure you allocate money for everything that the bride and the groom will need for the church rite and for the reception. Don't go over the budget!

Values connection

The wedding guests in this story usually have conditions that make them "special." We all have things that we can do and things that we cannot do. The things we can do are not "talents" or "gifts" and the things we cannot do are not "handicaps" or "disabilities."

1. Make the guest list and indicate each one's "special" talent or need. Use people-first language by emphasizing the person and his or her abilities before any disability. For example: Julianne who has epilepsy.

2. Make two columns. On the left, list five things that you can do very well. On the right, list five things that are difficult for you to do.

My Gifts (5 things I can do very well)	My Disabilities (5 things I have difficulty doing)

FAST TRACK NURSING COURSE LAUNCHED

A new radical approach to nursing education was recently launched by the Loyola Medical College Foundation.

The innovative approach involves a trimester system that reduces nursing education from four to two years using a US-accredited entrance test, curriculum, diploma and board exam, thereby paving the way for fast entry to the US.

The student takes a 20-month course at the newly established Saint Ignatius Health Science College in Quezon City, then goes for four months to the University of Loyola in Saipan, a US protectorate. The student can take the US board exam in Saipan, after which he or she can be in California or New York within 16 months of visa processing, unlike here where it can take much longer. Meanwhile, the student can work in Saipan as a Registered Nurse with US salary rates while waiting for the US visa.

The foundation plans to create more medical schools nationwide using the same scheme by tapping as partners local investors or existing schools, medical or non-medical. The attraction to investors is - there are no headaches in school setup. Everything is given on a silver platter - US accreditation, curriculum, including powerpoint lectures, diploma, entrance tests, and board exam. Even the teachers are either provided or trained.

The investor needs very little capital and space. A 300 square meter space for three 40-student classrooms, library, laboratory and offices will suffice. The foundation says the school can break even after six months with 60 students enrolled. The foundation offers scholarships and tuition loans, making the scheme a "nursing for the poor" program.

IIE-Lyra Art Contest: Draw a fantasy scene

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS NATIONWIDE MAY JOIN the IIE-Lyra Art Products Art Contest that complements "The Magic Circle" series.

Contest mechanics are as follows:

1. The contest is open to all high school students from private and public schools alike. A student may submit only one drawing or painting.

2. The theme of the contest is fantasy and entry must correspond to the current chapter upon submission.

3. Medium to be used shall be Lyra acrylic or gel crayons on 10" x 15" Strathmore board.

4. On a blank sheet of paper, indicate the student artist's name, school, address, year level, landline and mobile phone. Along with a photocopy of the student's school ID, glue the sheet on the back of the illustration board.

5. Deadlines for submissions:
Fantasy scene for Chapter 2: Feb. 7
Fantasy scene for Chapter 3: Feb. 14
Fantasy scene for Chapter 4: Feb. 21

6. Artwork for a particular chapter will be disqualified if received past the deadline.

7. Submit or mail entries to: Mont showroom at 491 E.T. Yuchengco Street (formerly Reyes), cor. Tabora Padilla St., Binondo, Manila (tel. 2426013).

8. The artworks will be judged according to artistic composition, the use of light, color, technique and form, appropriateness and consistency of details, originality and appeal, and relevance to the chapter.

9. One winner will be chosen for every chapter every week.

10. A photo of the weekly-winning artwork will be published in the Learning section.

11. Winners will be awarded a certificate and P2,000 worth of art and educational supplies.

12. Prizes may be claimed at the Mont showroom; the dates, place where entries are submitted.